World War II US Marine Infantry Regiments

GORDON L. ROTTMAN

ILLUSTRATED BY PETER DENNIS

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Elite 222

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Series editor Martin Windrow

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INTRODUCTION

The first “modern” US Marine regiment was formed in 1899 at Cavite Naval Station, Philippines. Efforts to establish permanent regiments began in 1908, but through 1913 all Marine regiments were provisional units, formed for specific missions and disbanded when those were completed. They were raised by consolidating Marine barracks companies – naval base guard units – and company-sized Marine ships’ detachments. It was during World War I that permanent regiments proved their value, with 14 regiments raised. Between the wars regiments were activated and deactivated as necessary, and on the eve of the US entry into World War II there were only seven (understrength) infantry regiments.

Throughout the war, whenever new regiments were raised, cadres of officers, NCOs, and specialists were detached from an existing regiment as a nucleus for the new unit. Often an existing regiment was split in two, one half remaining with the old regiment and the rest forming the cadre for the new. Two rosters were prepared, and a coin was flipped to see which commander got which half – to prevent the old regiment from unloading its undesirables on the new. The half under the command of the existing CO kept the number of the original regiment.

The 3d Marines landed on Puruata Island near Cape Gloucester on Bougainville on November 1, 1943. This rifleman, engaging snipers in defense of the howitzer positions being prepared to support operations on the mainland, wears camouflage utilities. By this date the entire Fleet Marine Force infantry was armed with the M1 semi-automatic rifle. (History Division, Marine Corps University – HD/MCU)

The Marine Corps emphasized a “Corps first” attitude, with complete loyalty to the Corps itself rather than to a unit. However, marines very much identified with their regiment. Recovered wounded or sick marines would be returned to their original regiment if possible, and even to the same battalion or company.

THE MARINE DIVISIONS

The Marine Corps had first proposed a division in World War I, but it was not until 1940 that Marine divisions were approved and organized around the existing 1st and 2d Marine Brigades of the Fleet Marine Force. The first two divisions were not activated until February 1941, and the Corps experienced great difficulties in raising the formations. This was due to the slow peacetime intake of recruits, deployments of units detached from the divisions to Iceland and Samoa, and the constant demand on existing units to provide cadres to newly raised units. Unit training cycles were constantly disrupted, with half of a unit stripped of personnel for a new unit's formation; then it would have to be re-manned with recruits and newly commissioned lieutenants, and unit training restarted. At the time of the Pearl Harbor attack on December 7, 1941 both divisions were seriously understrength and under-equipped.

Unfortunately, the Navy Department sought no advice from the Army, which had long experience of organizing, training, and employing divisions. The result was a large, unwieldy Marine divisional organization, with an overabundance of support units which would better have been kept under the control of higher commands to be allotted to divisions as necessary. For example, the amphibian tractor battalion organic to an uncommitted division was thus denied to other divisions deployed in combat. The Marines eventually learned, and reallocated many divisional assets upwards to Amphibious Corps and FMF (Fleet Marine Force) Troops for more judicious and flexible employment.

The Corps envisioned raising only three divisions, but a fourth was created in 1943 and two more in 1944. During the war's early stages regiments were frequently detached from divisions as the Corps grew, but from mid-1943 they generally remained with their parent division. Between 1939 and 1945 the Marine Corps grew from 18,000 troops (the same size as the New York City Police Department) to 485,000 men and women. By early 1944 it had already grown from three infantry regiments to 18, backed by scores of combat, support, and service units, and by its own air arm.

1st Marine Division, Guadalcanal, December 1942; (left to right) LtGen Thomas Holcomb, Commandant of the Marine Corps (1936–44); Col Merritt A. Edson, CO of 1st Raider Bn and later of the 5th Marines; and MajGen Alexander A. Vandegrift, Commanding General of 1st MarDiv. At this time senior officers in the field wore khakis rather than herringbone twill (HBTs), with collar rank insignia. Note Edson's non-standard black belt with cartridge loops and holstered revolver, probably a Smith & Wesson .38 Special Victory model, as normally issued to aviators. (HD/MCU)

Organization

Marine divisions were organized under four tables of organization between 1942 and 1945 – T/O D-100, E-100, F-100, and G-100 series (see tables). The T/O date is simply the authorization date; it might be weeks before a given division was reorganized, or months if it was preparing for or already committed to combat. Conversely, in some instances units had been partly reorganized earlier using draft T/Os; for instance, the G-100 series was dated September 4, 1945, but the 1st, 2d, and 6th MarDiv T/Os were revised well before the April 1945 Okinawa assault. Unit strengths vary slightly between sources due to periodic minor changes in T/O authorizations.

Tracking the divisions

This brief summary of the movements and operations of the six Marine divisions is provided so that readers may more easily follow the actions of the Marine infantry regiments.

The **1st MarDiv** was activated on February 1, 1941 from the 1st MarBde, FMF (5th & 7th Marines – raised September 1, 1935) while the HQ was aboard the USS *Texas* (BB35) en route to Culebra Island, Puerto Rico for an exercise. There the 1st Marines was raised. “The Old Breed” or “The Big One” assembled at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and in May the division deployed to Quantico, VA. The division moved to New River, NC in June (this base was renamed Camp Lejeune in December 1942). For a time the division was considered for a combined landing with the British in North Africa. The division formed the 3d MarBde with the 7th Marines, and deployed it to Western Samoa in March 1942. The rest of the division embarked for New Zealand in May 1942 and arrived in June.

2d Marine Division, Tarawa, November 1943: troops of a reserve company, wearing a mix of camouflage and olive drab HBT utilities, await the order to advance inland from Betio Island’s seawall. Betio was the first time that “amtracs” landed the assault waves; previously they had been used to deliver supplies ship-to-shore and inland, and to evacuate casualties. These marines are clustered around a disabled Landing Vehicle, Tracked (1); some claimed that LVT actually stood for “large vulnerable target,” as proved here. Of the 125 LVT(1)s and (2)s employed at Tarawa, 35 were knocked out, and the crews of 2d Amphibian Tractor Bn suffered 50 percent casualties. Only the LVT(1) was officially called the “Alligator,” but the term was generally adopted for all four versions, and the Japanese referred to all of them as *arigeta.* (HD/MCU)

Marine Division Tables of Organization			
D-100, July 1, 1942	**E-100, Apr 13, 1943**	**F-100, May 5, 1944**	**G-100, Sept 4, 1945**
Division HQ	Division HQ	Division HQ	Division HQ
HQ Battalion	HQ Battalion	HQ Battalion	HQ Battalion
Special Weapons Battalion	Special Weapons Battalion	—	—
Parachute Battalion	—	—	—
Light Tank Battalion	Light Tank Battalion	Tank Battalion	Tank Battalion
Service Battalion	Service Battalion	Service Battalion	Service Battalion
—	Motor Transport Battalion	Motor Transport Battalion	Motor Transport Battalion
Medical Battalion	Medical Battalion	Medical Battalion	Medical Battalion
Amphibian Tractor Battalion	Amphibian Tractor Battalion	—	—
Engineer Regiment	Engineer Regiment	—	—
Engineer Battalion	Engineer Battalion	Engineer Battalion	Engineer Battalion
Pioneer Battalion	Pioneer Battalion	Pioneer Battalion	Pioneer Battalion
Naval Const Battalion	Naval Const Battalion	—	—
Artillery Regiment	Artillery Regiment	Artillery Regiment	Artillery Regiment
75mm Battalion (x3)	75mm Battalion (x3)	75mm Battalion (x2)	—
105mm Battalion	105mm Battalion (x2)	105mm Battalion (x2)	105mm Battalion (x3)
155mm Battalion	—	—	155mm Battalion
Infantry Regiment (x3)	Infantry Regiment (x3)	Infantry Regiment (x3)	Infantry Regiment (x3)
19,514 troops	**19,965 troops**	**17,465 troops**	**19,176 troops**
Note: Actual authorized division strength fluctuated month-to-month according to changes in troop allowances.			

A rushed deployment saw the division – less the 7th Marines, but reinforced by the 2d Marines from the 2d MarDiv – assaulting Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands on September 7–8. The division fought there until relieved by the 2d MarDiv in early January 1943. The 1st MarDiv controlled the 1st, 2d, 5th, 7th, and 8th Marines in December 1942. The division arrived in Brisbane, Australia in February 1943, and then shifted to Melbourne for rest and rebuilding. Between September and November 1943 they moved to dispersal areas in eastern New Guinea and on Goodenough Island. The division assaulted Cape Gloucester on New Britain in the Bismarck Islands on December 26, 1943, and fought there until withdrawn in April and May 1944. Rebuilt on Pavuvu Island, the division assaulted Peleliu in the Carolines group on October 15, 1944, and suffered high casualties. Relieved by the Army, it was withdrawn to Pavuvu later in October. Rebuilt once again, the division assaulted Okinawa in the Ryukyu Archipelago on April 1, 1945 and fought there until June. The 2d Marines from 2d MarDiv had been transferred to the division by the end of the campaign. The division remained on Okinawa, preparing for the invasion of Japan, until it was sent to Northern China, landing on September 30, 1945 to occupy Hopeh Province. In

June 1947 the division returned to the States, and was stationed at Camp Pendleton, CA as one of the two standing Marine divisions.

3d Marine Division, Bougainville, September–October 1943: troops take a rest on the Mission Trail as they move inland near Cape Torokina, during the process of establishing a perimeter for the construction of two airfields. The few trails had to be employed as major lines of communications in the extremely dense "green hell," and were fought over as viciously as if they had been major highways. Many of these marines wear HBT utility caps (to the Corps, "covers") under their helmets. (HD/MCU)

The **2d MarDiv** was activated at San Diego, CA on February 1, 1941 from 2d MarBde, FMF (6th & 8th Marines – raised July 1, 1936). The 2d Marines was raised on the same date, and the division was stationed at Camp Elliott. In June 1941 it provided the 6th Marines to the 1st MarBde (Provisional), which deployed to help defend Iceland from July 1941 to March 1942. In February 1942 the 9th Marines was assigned to the division until September, when it transferred to the 3d MarDiv.

In December 1941 the new 2d MarBde (Reinforced) was formed around the 8th Marines and dispatched to American Samoa, arriving in January 1942. The 8th Marines departed in October 1942 and deployed to Guadalcanal for attachment to the 1st MarDiv, and rejoined the 2d MarDiv there in January 1943. The 2d MarDiv arrived on Guadalcanal in January 1943, to control the 2d, 6th, and 8th Marines until the campaign's end in February. In January and February 1943 the division served as HQ for the *ad hoc* Composite Army-Marine Division (CAM Div) made up of the least exhausted available units: 6th Marines, and 147th and 182d Infantry. In

February 1943 the division deployed to Wellington, NZ for rest and rebuilding.

The division assaulted Betio Island, Tarawa Atoll on November 20, 1943, suffering heavy casualties. The 2d MarDiv redeployed to Camp Tarawa, Hawaii in December – less the 6th Marines, which garrisoned Tarawa for two more months. The division assaulted Saipan on June 15, 1944, and nearby Tinian on July 26. The 2d and 6th Marines conducted mop-up operations on Saipan, and at the year's end the division concentrated there and rebuilt. It served as a floating reserve for the April 1945 Okinawa assault, but soon returned to Saipan. In June the 8th Marines secured small islands off Okinawa, and fought on the main island attached to the 1st MarDiv. Assembled on Saipan in July to rebuild, it departed for Japan and landed on Kyushu Island as an occupation force. It returned to the States in July 1946, and was stationed at Camp Lejeune as one of the standing Marine divisions.

The **3d MarDiv** was activated by consolidating various separate units on September 16, 1942 at Camp Elliott. "The Fighting Third" was initially composed of the 9th Marines reassigned from the 2d MarDiv in February 1942; the 21st Marines was activated in July 1942 and assigned to the 3d MarDiv; the 3d Marines was activated in June 1942 and assigned to the 2d MarBde (Reinforced) in American Samoa, and reassigned to the 3d MarDiv in February 1943; and the 23d Marines was assigned to the division in September 1942, until later reassigned to the 4th MarDiv and replaced by the 3d Marines.

4th Marine Division landed on Saipan on June 15, 1944, and the next day advanced toward the Fina Susu Ridge with its three regiments in line. These two marines taking cover in a bomb crater are both

armed with carbines, so may belong to a weapons company. The man on the right wears the "transport pack" – the M1941 haversack with the knapsack coupled below it, but without the bedroll; on the left, note the Army-issue "jungle pack," later redesignated the M1943, which saw limited use by the Corps. Both men have the rectangular case for the M3 lightweight service gasmask slung at the hip, but these will soon be discarded. (HD/MCU)

Between January and March 1943 the division shipped to Auckland, New Zealand, where it was joined by the 3d Marines arriving from Samoa. The division moved to Guadalcanal between June and August 1943. On September 27, 1943 it assaulted Bougainville, and fought there until the year's end. It returned to Guadalcanal in January 1944 for rebuilding. The division assaulted Guam on July 21, 1944, fighting there until August, and then garrisoned the island and retrained. On February 24, 1945 most of the division landed on Iwo Jima – which had been assaulted on February 19 – as reinforcements; the 3d Marines remained a floating reserve until the operation's end in late March. The division returned to Guam to prepare for the invasion of Japan. After the war ended the 3d MarDiv served as a reserve in case Japanese on bypassed islands resisted. The division was deactivated on Guam on December 28, 1945. The 3d MarDiv was reactivated at Camp Pendleton in 1952 and later moved to Okinawa. It remains today as one of the Corps' three standing divisions. The 4th Marines was assigned to the division in 1952, replacing the 21st Marines.

Marine Infantry Regiment Leadership Positions	
Duty position	**Rank**
Fire team leader *or* assistant squad leader (prior to 1944) *or* MG or mortar squad leader	corporal
Squad leader *or* section leader *or* platoon guide	sergeant
Platoon sergeant	platoon sergeant
Company 1st sergeant	1st sergeant
Platoon commander *or* company XO	2nd or 1st lieutenant
Company commander	captain
Battalion XO *or* regimental weapons company commander	major
Battalion commander *or* regimental XO	lieutenant-colonel
Regimental commander	colonel
Note: Regimental and battalion staff officers might be lieutenants, captains, or majors depending on the echelon and position.	

The **4th MarDiv** was created from units raised on the East and West Coasts before the division was activated at Camp Pendleton on August 16, 1943; the elements raised on the East Coast had been shipped to the West Coast by that time. “The Fighting Fourth” departed California in January 1944 and sailed 4,300 miles directly to Roi-Namur, twin islands at the northern end of Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshalls group – the longest-range amphibious assault in World War II, which took place on February 1, 1944. With the operation completed on February 8, the division sailed to Maui, Hawaii. It sailed again for Saipan in the Marianas group, which it assaulted on June 15, 1944, followed by the Tinian assault on July 24. In mid-August 1944 the division returned to Maui and rebuilt. On February 19, 1945 the division assaulted Iwo Jima, fighting there until March 16. It returned to Maui and prepared for the invasion of Japan. Instead it was shipped to Camp Pendleton, and deactivated on November 28, 1945. The division and regimental HQ were reactivated in 1966 as a Reserve division, although the battalions had already been reactivated in 1962.

5th Marine Division's two assault regiments landed on Iwo Jima on February 19, 1945, on the southernmost beaches nearest Mt Suribachi. With difficulty, these marines – wearing full "field transport packs" complete with bedrolls – are manhandling an M1A1 cart loaded with signal equipment ashore through Iwo Jima's volcanic ash. When saturated, this had almost the consistency of quicksand, and when dry it had no cohesion, making climbing any slope extremely difficult. Wallowing in the background are broached and abandoned LCVPs from the attack troop transport USS *Highland*, APA-119 – note hull number "PA119-13." (HD/MCU)

The **5th MarDiv** was activated at Camp Pendleton on January 21, 1944. Stateside units were scoured for personnel, and the 1st Marine Parachute Regiment was absorbed by "The Spearhead Division." Its 24th Marines departed for the Marianas in July 1944, to serve as a reserve for the 1st Provisional MarBde on Guam. Not committed there, it moved to Camp Tarawa, Hawaii, where the rest of the division arrived between August and October. It assaulted Iwo Jima on February 19, 1945, fighting there until March 27 – its only combat operation. Returning to Camp Tarawa, it prepared for the invasion of Japan and deployed to Saipan. With the war over it was deployed as occupation troops to Kyushu, Japan. Most of the division returned to Camp Pendleton in December 1945, and deactivated on February 5, 1946. The division was reactivated in 1966; part of it served in Vietnam, and it was once more inactivated in 1970.

The **1st Prov MarBde** was formed on April 19, 1944 at Tassafaronga, Guadalcanal with the formerly separate 4th and 22d Marines. It was sometimes referred to as a "two-regiment division" plus the Army's attached

305th RCT. Departing Guadalcanal, the brigade assaulted Guam on July 21, 1944 and completed the operation on August 15. It returned to Guadalcanal in September. The brigade was designated the **6th MarDiv** on September 7, 1944, with the assignment of the 29th Marines and other units from the States. This division is a rare example of a provisional formation's lineage being continued by a regular unit. It was also unique in that seven of its infantry battalions were combat-experienced prior to its activation.

The division departed Guadalcanal in March 1945, to assault Okinawa on April 1. It saw action into June, and in July moved to Guam to prepare for the invasion of Japan. The 4th Marines landed in Japan as occupation troops on August 30, and the rest of the division in China in October. The 4th Marines rejoined the division in January 1946 after being rebuilt. The division was deactivated in Tsingtao on March 31, 1946, though some units remained active with the 3d MarBde for a short time. The division has never since been reactivated.

Two *ad hoc* division-level commands were formed during the war. The **Defense Force Samoan Group, FMF** was established in April 1942 and was responsible for the defense of American Samoa, NZ Western Samoa, and French Wallis Island. The rotating 3d, 7th, 8th, and 22d Marines, detached from their parent divisions, served there under the 2d MarBde (Reinforced) and 3d MarBde, FMF until March and November 1943, respectively. The **Composite Army-Marine Division** (CAM Div) was formed on Guadalcanal by the 2d MarDiv to control still-effective Marine and Army units at the end of the campaign in January and February 1943.

A 4th MARINES; CORREGIDOR, PHILIPPINES, 1942

The 4th Marines was evacuated from China where it had served since the late 1920s, arriving in Manila in the last days of November 1941. The understrength regiment was built up to 3,891 men by incorporating other Marine units and 2,451 non-marines, from 142 different units and organizations, into the 4th Marines (Reinforced). Assigned to the beach defenses of Corregidor, this had four battalions and a regimental reserve, totaling 18 companies.

(1) Corporal This “China Marine,” armed with an M1903 Springfield rifle, is uniformed and equipped more in the style of the 1930s than his brethren then training in the States. His khaki cotton field uniform, with two forest-green rank chevrons on each upper shirtsleeve, differs from summer service dress only by the addition of M1938 leggings and other web equipment. The M1917A1 “dishpan” helmet is finished in forest-green, with the Corps’ bronze eagle, globe and anchor badge brazed on the front. The web gear was basically the same as Army M1910 issue, but was contracted by the Corps and marked “U.S.M.C.” on inside or reverse surfaces; Army items dating from World War I were also still in use.

(2) Recent inductee The miscellaneous personnel who were transferred into the 4th early in 1942 were issued whatever uniforms and equipment

were available on the “the Rock.” This man has a USMC fiber sun helmet, but his khaki shirt, blue denim fatigue trousers and service shoes come from Army stores. He is armed with an M1928A1 Thompson submachine gun; the Corps had made some use of its 1921 forerunner during the 1920s. (It is sometimes mistakenly assumed that the M1928A1 always had the forward pistol-grip fitted, but this simple forearm, popularly associated with the later M1 version, was often seen.) His web gear is limited to an M1912 pistol belt, with an M1924 first aid pouch and an M1910 canteen hooked on at right front and left rear, respectively. The spare magazine carrier for the Thompson’s 50-round drum is simply looped to the belt without a shoulder sling, since it is a commercial item; a version with a sling was later issued.

(3) The basic M1910 haversack worn by A1, without the awkward “carrier, pack, M1910” that strapped to its lower edge to turn it into the infamous “long pack.” (A virtually identical Marine Corps “P1912” haversack was also made, in forest-green material with tan web straps.) The M1910 T-handle entrenching tool in its web blade-carrier is hooked to an eyeleted tab high on the haversack flap, hidden here by the attached messtin (or “meatcan”) pouch; sometimes the latter was detached and the canteen was hooked to the tab instead. The 16-inch M1905 bayonet in its M1910 canvas-and-leather-covered scabbard is hooked and strapped to the left side of the haversack.

(4a & 4b) Front and rear of the M1910 canteen with cup and cover. Early Marine Corps covers sometimes lacked the gray felt lining and front vertical reinforcement stitching. The double-hook was attached higher on the back, and the inside of the left flap was stamped “U.S.M.C.”

(5a & 5b) Front and rear of the 5-pocket pouch for 20-round Thompson box magazines, showing the Corps stamp on the large rear belt loop.

(6) The “Casey Cookie” grenade was devised by BrigGen Hugh J. Casey of the Engineers, US Army Forces in the Far East. Some 10,000 were made, and it generally proved effective, though duds were common. It consisted of a 3-inch wide, 6-inch long section of bamboo cut at a joint, filled with a half-stick of dynamite, nails, pebbles and broken glass, sealed with concrete and set off with a blasting cap and 4 inches of safety fuze.

(7) The small bronze Marine Corps “Globe and Anchor” insignia surmounted by an eagle was worn on uniform coat collars and the left front of garrison caps, and a larger version on visored service caps, sun helmets, and sometimes on the “dishpan” helmet.
(8) Many 4th Marines troops were issued round Army M1924 identity tags rather than the oval Navy tags (see Plate B2). Stamped information included, for example: “4th MARINES” round the upper edge, “3rd Bn” in the center, and the individual’s initials and last name around the lower edge.

B 1st MARINE DIVISION; GUADALCANAL, SOLOMON ISLANDS, 1942

The 1st MarDiv fought on Guadalcanal in late 1942, having under command its own 1st, 5th, and 7th Marines plus the 2d and 8th Marines from 2d Division; later the 2d MarDiv’s 6th Marines also fought there briefly.

(1) Rifle grenadier, 5th Marines Landing on Guadalcanal, this marine is uniformed according to regulations. His M1 helmet has no camouflage cover yet. The olive drab herringbone twill (HBT) "utility" uniform (aka "dungarees," but never "fatigues") was introduced in November 1941, and was first widely worn in combat on Guadalcanal; it was actually a grayish sage-green shade. The jacket had three flapless patch pockets, which on the left breast displayed "USMC" and the EGA badge heat-transferred in black, as adopted in 1938. The "first pattern" trousers had two patch front pockets and a small "watch pocket" on the right hip, obscured here by the jacket. The trousers were worn bloused into M1938 leggings, and footwear was "rough-side-out" service shoes (aka "boondockers"). This marine's web gear is essentially the same as in Plate A1, but with the slightly modified M1923 rifle belt, and the M1910 pack replaced by the more widely used upper haversack of the two-piece M1941 Marine Corps Pack (MCP). His Springfield M1903 rifle is fitted with a 50mm Vivien-Bessières (VB) Mk III grenade launcher, a French-designed item left over from World War I.

(2) Automatic rifleman, 1st Marines It did not take long before the heat, humidity and primitive jungle conditions encountered on "the Canal" forced uniform changes. Sleeves and trouser cuffs were rolled up, and jackets were worn partly or entirely unbuttoned. Sometimes the leggings were dumped; they remained wet after fording streams, and chafed the calves. Undershirts and shorts were discarded, as they too trapped damp, causing skin rashes and irritation. Here, in reserve behind the Henderson Field perimeter, the marine wears the Corps' HBT garrison cap, also seen in khaki or forest-green; the corners might be either rounded or squared. His weapon is the M1918A1 Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR) with a bipod mounted on the end of the forearm rather than bear the muzzle as on the M1918A2; one was carried in each rifle squad of a platoon and two or even three in the automatic rifle squad. He is taking an Mk II fragmentation hand grenade from its M1941 packing container, which came 24 to a case. The original yellow-painted finish of the grenade was changed to OD from 1943; yellow was judged too visible by night, when Japanese sometimes spotted them in time to throw them back.

(3) The M1941 haversack had attachment tabs for an e-tool and bayonet,

and long adjustable suspender straps. When the haversack was worn alone ("marching pack"), without having the lower knapsack coupled to it ("field marching pack"), the suspender straps passed over the shoulders, through the O-rings of the belt suspenders, then back to be crossed and fastened over the haversack.
(4) The carrier vest for 11x VB rifle grenades would not take the larger US hand grenades, but was later used for carrying M1 rifle clips or 12-gauge shotgun shells.
(5) The Mk III VB launcher projected the grenades using ball cartridges; the bullet passing through the grenade's central tunnel also initiated the 8-second time fuze.
(6) The 50mm VB grenade, with its removable brass safety cap. This munition was withdrawn after Guadalcanal.
(7) Belt carrier for the VB launcher.
(8) The M1937 BAR belt took 12x 20-round magazines in six pockets, but it was recommended that only eight be carried to reduce excessive weight. One of the other pockets could hold the leather M1918 spares and accessory case.
(9) "Battle blaze" of the 1st MarDiv, worn on the left shoulder when in service dress but never on field uniforms. It was adopted in February 1943, after Guadalcanal; the original Australian-made patch was on twill backing.

Insignia

The Marines made much less use of insignia than the Army. Shoulder sleeve insignia, which the Marines called "battle blazes" or simply "patches," were authorized in March 1943. It was up to a year before some units received a patch after submitting designs for approval by FMFPac (Fleet Marine Force, Pacific). Divisions, corps, and FMF troops were authorized patches, but regiments had no individual patches or crests. The regiments identified closely with the divisional patch displayed on the left shoulder (but never worn in combat). Nor did they adopt the Army practice of wearing on the right shoulder the patch of the unit in which the individual had first seen combat. All battle blazes were revoked in January 1948, emphasizing the Corps' identity as a single, unified fighting force. Marine regimental

nicknames and logos (used today on letterheads, signs, etc.) were adopted only after the Vietnam War.

Marine division operations and assigned infantry regiments

Division (nickname)	Amphibious operations	Regiments
1st MarDiv (The Old Breed or The Big One)	Guadalcanal, Peleliu, Okinawa, North China	1, 5, 7
2d MarDiv (The Silent Second)	Guadalcanal, Tarawa, New Britain, Saipan, Tinian, Japan	2, 6, 8*
3d MarDiv (The Fighting Third)	Bougainville, Guam, Iwo Jima	3, 9, 21
4th MarDiv (The Fighting Fourth)	Roi-Namur, Saipan, Tinian, Iwo Jima	23, 24, 25
5th MarDiv (The Spearhead)	Iwo Jima, Japan	26, 27, 28
6th MarDiv (The Striking Sixth)	Guam‡, Okinawa, North China	4†, 22, 29

Notes: * 8th Marines also fought on Okinawa attached to 1st MarDiv.
† 4th Marines earlier fought in the Philippines, and later occupied Japan.
‡ As 1st Prov MarBde, with 4th and 22d Marines.
The assignment of regiments has been maintained to this day, other than the 4th and 21st Marines, which have switched divisions to continue the 4th Marines' lineage, since the 6th MarDiv has never been reactivated.

The Corps' most identifiable emblem is the "Eagle, Globe, and Anchor," in use since 1868. The EGA emblem is displayed on flags, unit colors, guidons, uniform collars, headgear, and, starting in 1940, on the left pocket of utility jackets. The official Marine Corps colors, integrated into many insignia, are scarlet and gold; these were approved in 1925, although they had been in use longer. Red, white, and blue were also widely used; besides being the National Colors, they echoed the Marines' dress blue uniform introduced in 1912, of a midnight-blue blouse, sky-blue trousers, red blouse piping and trousers stripes, and white cap and belt.

6th Marine Division was created in September 1944 around the two-regiment 1st Provisional Marine Brigade; on July 21 the brigade had assaulted Guam, where these marines are debarking over the sides of an LVT(2) “Water Buffalo” at a low dune line. Most movies show amtracs rumbling out of the surf and halting when just clear of the water, where troops bail out over the sides or down the lowered tailgates of LVT(3)s or (4)s. This would leave them unprotected as they ran up the beach; in reality, amtracs would carry them up to the first available cover, usually a dune line. While crossing the beach the troops would drop cases of ammunition and grenades and water cans over the sides, to be recovered later when needed. Attempts to carry troops further inland often failed due to the amtracs’ poor cross-country capability, though some use was made of prefabricated timber ramps carried ashore to aid them in crossing the initial obstacles. (HD/MCU)

EVOLUTION OF THE MARINE INFANTRY REGIMENT

A common mistake when studying Marine Corps units is to assume that they were designated, organized, and allocated weapons similarly to Army units. While there were similarities to varying degrees, there were also major differences.

Prior to 1913, when the first permanent Marine regiments were raised, there had been numerous other provisional regiments formed temporarily and designated the 1st–3d Marine Regiments. When a regiment was needed for deployment a 1st Regiment would be raised, followed by a 2d and 3d if necessary, and deployed in different countries. When no longer required, these regiments would be disbanded; when another regiment was required a new 1st would be raised, and subsequently disbanded. These early regiments did not perpetuate one another's lineage, and have no linear connection to the modern 1st–3d Marines.

Organization

The infantry regiment changed little through World War II, although the allocation of crew-served weapons changed, new weapons were introduced, and subunit organization was refined.

Basically a Marine infantry regiment consisted of a headquarters and service (HQ&S) company, a regimental weapons company with AT weapons, and three infantry battalions. The battalion had an HQ company, three rifle companies, and a weapons company. A major change occurred in May 1944, when the battalion weapons company was eliminated. Its mortars and MGs were absorbed into the battalion's headquarters company and the rifle companies, respectively.

Marine infantry regiments

Regiments are listed here in the order of activation, with dates abbreviated for reasons of space. The activation dates for the 1st–9th Marines are the most recent to World War II. Low-numbered regiments had previously been activated and deactivated, often more than once, from 1913 into the 1930s.
The overseas departure and return dates list only the month, since most units deployed/returned over a span of days or weeks. The divisions listed (excluding the separate regiments) were the final habitual assignments, and do not include earlier brigade and divisional assignments and attachments.

Regiment	Activated	Overseas	Returned	Deactivated	Division
4th (first)	Apr 16, 1914	Feb 1927	surrendered	May 6, 42	separate
5th	Sept 1, 34	May 42	**	Oct 1, 47	1st
6th	Sept 1, 34	June 41	July 46	Sept 11, 46	2d
8th	Apr 1, 40	Jan 42	July 46	Nov 18, 47	2d
7th	Jan 1, 41	Apr 42	Jan 47	March 6, 46	1st
2d	Feb 1, 41	July 42	July 46	Nov 18, 47	2d
1st	March 1, 41	May 42	Feb 49	Nov 1, 47	1st
9th	Feb 12, 42	Jan 43	Dec 45	Dec 31, 45	3d
22d	June 1, 42	July 42	**	March 26, 46	6th
3d	June 16, 42	Aug 42	Dec 45	Jan 13, 46	3d
21st	July 14, 42	Feb 43	**	Dec 20, 45	3d
23d	July 22, 42	Jan 44	Oct 45	Nov 15, 45	4th
24th	March 26, 43	Jan 44	Oct 45	Oct 31, 45	4th
1st Prcht	Apr 1, 43	*	Feb 44	Feb 29, 44	separate
1st Raider	March 15, 43	*	**	Feb 1, 44	separate
25th	May 1, 43	Jan 44	Oct 45	Nov 10, 45	4th
2d Raider	Sept 12, 43	*	**	Jan 26, 44	separate
26th	Jan 10, 44	July 44	Nov 45	March 5, 46	5th
27th	Jan 10, 44	Aug 44	Dec 45	Jan 10, 46	5th
4th (second)†	Feb 1, 44	*	Oct 46	Jan 20, 45	6th
28th	Feb 8, 44	Sept 44	Dec 45	Jan 28, 46	5th
29th	May 1, 44	Aug 44	**	March 26, 46	6th

Notes: * = unit activated overseas; ** = unit deactivated overseas.
† = Unit organized from 1st Marine Raider Regiment assets.

The regimental HQ&S company consisted of a regimental HQ section (including “R” staff sections and the Navy-manned medical aid station), communication platoon, intelligence and paymaster sections, and a supply section – expanded into a service platoon in 1944. There was an optional scout and sniper platoon during 1943–44.

The regimental weapons company had a large HQ, 3x four-gun jeep-towed 37mm AT gun platoons, and a platoon of 2x, later 4x, halftrack-mounted 75mm M3 AT guns. Intended for AT fires, the guns were more commonly employed to reduce pillboxes, caves, and other defenses. Occasionally the weapons company was employed as a mobile reaction or economy-of-force unit.

Unit designation practices

Prior to 1930 Marine regiments were designated, for example, 1st Regiment of Marines or 1st Marine Regiment. In 1930 “Regiment” was dropped from designations, and they were now designated, for example, “1st Marines” with no functional (infantry) or echelon (regiment) appendage. (However, the T/O was designated as “Marine Infantry Regiment.”) Existing regiments were redesignated in that manner in 1930, and it was used for those raised subsequently. It is incorrect to say “1st Marine Infantry Regiment,” it is simply “1st Marines.” Despite this plural form, a regiment is habitually referred to by the singular pronoun “it,” rather than “they.” A regiment’s three battalions were designated 1st, 2d, and 3d and referred to, for example, as 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (1/5) – spoken as “One/Five,” never “1st of the 5th” as in Army practice.

Companies were lettered in sequence through the regiment: 1st Bn – Cos A–D; 2d Bn – Cos E–H; and 3d Bn – Cos I, & K–M. There was no Co J owing to the similarly of the handwritten I and J in the 1800s (and *not* because some indeterminate “Company J” in the past had lost its guidon in an unspecified war). Companies D, H, and M were weapons companies until these were eliminated in May 1944. Rifle companies thereafter retained their original designations to simplify administration, and in case weapon companies were re-established (which they were in 1947). The only exception was the 29th Marines, raised after the reorganization (1st Bn – Cos A–C; 2d Bn – Cos D–F; and 3d Bn – Cos G–I). Companies were commonly designated, for example, A/5th Marines without the inclusion of the battalion designation, and spoken as “A/Fifth”; usually the phonetic alphabet was used, e.g., “ABLE/Five.”

At the Catholic cathedral on Plaza de Espana in Agafia, capital of Guam, two 3d MarDiv marines display a US flag that had been burned when the Japanese seized the island on December 10, 1941. The left-hand man has let down the rear part of the helmet cover to provide a sun-curtain; he is armed with a carbine, and carries Mk II fragmentation grenades on his pistol belt. The right-hand marine has a three-pocket, six-magazine BAR bandolier on his chest. (HD/MCU)

Each battalion possessed a headquarters company, for example, HQ Company, 1/5th Marines. The regiment possessed a weapons company with AT guns, which should not be confused with battalion weapons companies. It was designated, for example, Weapons Company, 5th Marines along with the regimental Headquarters and Service Company, 5th Marines.

Rifle company platoons were designated 1st–3d Rifle Platoons plus the Weapons Platoon (until this was reorganized in May 1944 as a Machine Gun Platoon). On occasion the Weapons Platoon was called 4th Platoon. Within platoons were the 1st–3d Rifle Squads, each consisting from April 1944 of Fire Teams Nos. 1–3. Between 1939 and April 1943 the platoon also had a separate Automatic Rifle Squad ("BAR Squad"), often called the 4th Squad.

The battalion weapons company's 1st–3d Machine Gun Platoons were organized into two two-squad sections (1st and 2d Sections). The six HMG (heavy machine gun) sections were sometimes numbered in sequence through the three platoons – 1st–6th Sections. The battalion 81mm Mortar Platoon, whether part of the weapons company or later the HQ company, had two mortar sections (1st and 2d) with two squads each. Prior to April 1943 the weapons company possessed an AT platoon with 1st–4th 37mm AT gun

squads. Each machine gun, mortar, and AT gun squad – crew – manned a single weapon.

The rifle company's weapons platoon had a machine gun section and mortar section; both had three squads – two prior to 1943. From 1944, rifle company machine gun platoons – replacing weapons platoons – had three sections (1st–3d) of two squads each, with the six squads numbered through the platoon.

The four-battalion 1st Marine Parachute and 1st Marine Raider regiments used unique company designation systems.[1] Both regiments were raised by consolidating previously separate battalions. The separate 1st–4th Parachute Bns each consisted of Cos A–C, while Raider battalions might have companies from A up to F, though some had only A–D. When the battalions were consolidated into regiments in the spring of 1943 the companies were re-lettered in sequence, and the Raiders standardized with four rifle companies per battalion. The sequences were:

1st Marine Prcht Regt: 1st Bn – Cos A–C; 2d Bn – Cos E–G; 3d Bn – Cos I, K & L; 4th Bn – Cos N–P. Company letters D, H, M, and Q were reserved in case additional rifle or battalion weapons companies were later authorized (only a regimental weapons company then existed).

1st Marine Raider Regt: 1st Bn – Cos A–D; 2d Bn – Cos E–H; 3d Bn – Cos I & K–M; 4th Bn – Cos N–Q. All four battalion companies were rifle, with substantial integral weapons platoons.

The 2d Prov Raider Regt consisted of the 1st Regiment's 2d and 3d Battalions.

In the Army, staff officers and sections at all echelons below division were designated S-1 (personnel), S-2 (intelligence), S-3 (operations), and S-4 (supply), the "S" meaning Staff. The Marines, however, prefixed staff designations with "R" for Regiment and "Bn" for Battalion staffs. In March 1945 the Marines adopted the Army staff designations, to accommodate joint operations and Army staff manuals then used by the Marines.

C 2d MARINE DIVISION; TARAWA, GILBERT ISLANDS, 1943

The 2d MarDiv assaulted Betio Island, Tarawa Atoll in November 1943 with its 2d, 6th, and 8th Marines, in what proved to be the Corps' most costly single-division assault: 3,300 casualties in three days. The assault troops were issued the new reversible two-piece camouflage uniform for trials; most wore the helmet cover and utilities with the four-color "brown side" out, as Betio was basically a sandbar with little vegetation. The shades varied in detail between production lots and manufacturers. Marines complained that the clothing was hot because of the printing ink on both sides of the fabric; that it was inconvenient to take it off and reverse it when terrain and vegetation changed; and that the brown side was easily detectable by the light of the moon or flares. The camouflage jackets and trousers were subsequently withdrawn as general issue, though they were retained by some reconnaissance troops. The reversible helmet covers were retained; so too were the camouflage ponchos and shelter-halves that were also issued, which gradually replaced their OD counterparts.

(1) Rifleman, 6th. Marines The legs of the camouflage utilities were made long, and had to be rolled up when not bloused into leggings. By late 1943 the entire FMF was armed with the Garand semi-automatic M1 rifle. Riflemen carried 80 rounds in their cartridge-belt pouches,

plus (not illustrated here) one or two six-pocket bandoliers each holding another 48 rounds. Even when the 10-inch blade M1 bayonet was adopted early in 1943, most marines still carried the 16-inch M1905, which gave them a longer reach than a Japanese rifleman.

(2) Ammunition bearer, weapons platoon, 8th Marines Some troops did wear the five-color "green side" out (i.e. predominantly green, though the pattern incorporated two brown shades and was printed on a khaki base color); others wore plain sage-green HBT utilities, or the camouflage jacket with green trousers. There were few M1 carbines in combat units, with only five in the 29-man rifle company HQ. The 12-man rifle squad had two M1918A2 BARs, nine M1 rifles, and one M1903 rifle with an M1 grenade launcher (M7 launchers for the M1 rifle would soon be issued). Only the platoon commander and platoon sergeant had carbines; in 1942, before these became available, they might use M1903 rifles or .45cal M50 Reising submachine guns. However, about two-thirds of the rifle company's 39-man weapons platoon carried carbines. This marine has laid down an M50 shipping tube containing six 60mm mortar rounds in individual tubes.

(3) Rear of C1's M1923 rifle belt, supported by the Marines' M1941 "X-back" suspenders. The hard plastic scabbard for the M3 bayonet had a metal mouth incorporating a double-hook, and was worn on the left hip. Individual marines were now issued two canteens; the cap was now made of black plastic, while the cover had long cross-over securing flaps and a hole in the bottom to drain water and sand.

(4) The Mk IIIA1 offensive, demolition, or "concussion" hand grenade contained a full half-pound of TNT, though by design it generated little fragmentation.

(5) Two M1 carbine double magazine pockets, each holding two 15-round magazines, were issued to carbine-armed men and worn on the M1912 or M1936 pistol belt. Both the early round-flap and later pointed-flap types were issued with two tack stitches across the pockets near the bottom. Cutting these allowed the longer seven-round .45cal magazines for the M1911A1 pistol to be inserted instead.

(6) The Ka-Bar fighting/utility knife with a 7-inch blade was adopted in November 1942, and was carried by many combat troops.

(7) The 22lb M37 satchel charge contained eight 2¼-lb M1 tetrytol

demolition charges linked by detonating cord; M2 charges lacked the connecting detcord.
(8) The 2d Marine Division's "battle blaze" was adopted in the late summer of 1943. This is an original issue; later patches lacked the gold-yellow border.

Table of Organization, 1942

The 1st and 2d MarDivs were organized on Guadalcanal under the July 1, 1942 D-series T/O. The 3d organized under this T/O, but did not see combat under it.

The regimental HQ&S company consisted of company headquarters, communications platoon, and regimental headquarters (with aid station), intelligence, paymaster, and supply sections. The regimental weapons company had a headquarters, three platoons with 4x AT guns and 2x .50cal MGs each, and a platoon with 2x M3 halftrack-mounted 75mm guns, commonly referred to as "self-propelled mounts" (SPM). The 1st and 2d MarDivs did not receive SPMs until mid-1942, initially using towed 75mm M1897A4 field guns – modernized "French 75s."[2]

While few Japanese tanks were ever encountered, the 2.36in M9 bazooka, seen here carried by a 1st MarDiv team on Peleliu, proved to be valuable for blasting the enemy out of pillboxes, caves, ravines and sinkholes. Each infantry rifle company HQ received three bazookas during its conversion to the new 1944 T/O in May–June before the Peleliu landing in September. Weighing just under 16lb,

the weapon had a range of up to 300 yards and a rate of fire of up to ten rounds per minute in the hands of a skilled and well-supplied crew, and its high-explosive antitank (HEAT) rocket could penetrate up to 12 inches of reinforced concrete.

Another mid-War innovation was the M2 individual jungle first aid pack – see Plate F7; the central man here has two hooked to the back of his belt between his two canteens. It was common practice to cut out the web interior compartments for medical items in one pack, in order to create a handy pouch for cigarettes, lighter, toilet paper, etc. (HD/MCU)

The infantry battalion had an HQ company, three rifle companies, and a weapons company. The HQ company had a company headquarters, communications, battalion headquarters (with aid station), intelligence, and supply sections. The weapons company initially had an AT platoon with 4x AT guns and 2x .50cal MGs. The mortar platoon had 4x 81mm mortars, and each of the three machine gun platoons had 8x .30cal M1917A1 water-cooled HMGs, with four manned and four in reserve.

The three rifle companies each had a headquarters, three rifle platoons, and a weapons platoon. The 42-man rifle platoons had a headquarters with a 2d lieutenant platoon leader, a platoon sergeant (this being both a rank and a position), a platoon guide (sergeant), a demolitions corporal, and three messengers. The three nine-man rifle squads each consisted of a squad leader (sergeant), assistant squad leader (corporal), two scouts, three riflemen (one being a grenadier), an automatic rifleman (BAR man), and an assistant auto rifleman. All hands, except the BAR man, were armed with the .30cal M1903-series Springfield rifle. The grenadier had an M1 rifle grenade launcher (GL) for his Springfield; in fact there were few of these on Guadalcanal, and limited use was made of the World War I French-designed Vivien-Bessières Mk III grenade launcher. The automatic rifleman had a .30cal M1918A1/A2 Browning Automatic Rifle. The rifle platoon's eight-man automatic rifle squad had a squad leader, two automatic riflemen, two assistants, and three riflemen – this allowed formation of a third BAR team in some platoons. The squad leader was armed with a .45cal M50 Reising submachine gun. The weapons platoon had a four-man headquarters, a 13-man machine gun section of two squads (each with 1x .30cal M1919A4 air-cooled light machine gun), and an 11-man mortar section with two squads (each with 1x 60mm M2 mortar).

Table of Organization, 1943

The April 15, 1943 E-series T/O reorganization saw minor changes in personnel and weapons. Overall regimental strength was increased only by 74 men. The most significant change to the regimental HQ&S company was the addition of an optional 43-man, three-squad scout and sniper platoon. This addition was because of lessons learned on Guadalcanal, where divisional requirements kept the scout company under its control. HQ strength at regimental, battalion, and weapons company echelons was increased, though the rifle company HQ was reduced by one man. The battalion HQ company was increased, mainly with service and Navy medical personnel, while the communication section became a platoon. Strength in crew-served weapons platoons was reduced. The battalion weapons company lost its 37mm AT platoon owing to recognition that the tank threat was minimal. The three machine gun platoons retained most of their strength, but lost their four reserve M1917A1 HMGs, giving them four guns. The 81mm mortar platoon was reduced by 18 men, but still operated four mortars.

Personnel, Infantry Regiment within Marine Division			
D-series T/O, July 1, 1942	**3,168**	**E-series T/O, April 15, 1943**	**3,242**
HQ&S Company	173	HQ&S Company	186
Infantry Battalion (x3)	933	Infantry Battalion (x3)	953
HQ Company	111	HQ Company	137
Company HQ	36	Company HQ	14
Battalion HQ	75	Battalion HQ	123
Rifle Company (x3)	183	Rifle Company (x3)	196
Company HQ	29	Company HQ	28
Rifle Platoon (x3)	42	Rifle Platoon (x3)	43
Weapons Platoon	28	Weapons Platoon	39
Weapons Company	273	Weapons Company	288
Company HQ	29	Company HQ	41
Machine Gun Platoon (x3)	48	Machine Gun Platoon (x3)	43
81mm Mortar Platoon	76	81mm Mortar Platoon	58
37mm AT Gun Platoon	24	*deleted*	
Regimental Weapons Company	196	Regimental Weapons Company	197
Company HQ	48	Company HQ	69
37mm AT Gun Platoon (x3)	38	37mm AT Gun Platoon (x3)	34
75mm SP Gun Platoon	34	75mm SP Gun Platoon	26

Rifle platoons lost the automatic rifle squad, but the three nine-man rifle squads were increased to 12 men, with a net increase in platoon strength of one man. The new rifle squad had a squad leader, assistant squad leader, two automatic riflemen, two assistants, and six riflemen, armed with nine

M1 rifles, two BARs, and an M1903 rifle with an M1 GL (M7 launchers for the M1 rifle were not available until late 1943). The weapons platoon received a third 60mm mortar and a third M1919A4 LMG, giving the mortar section 16 men and the machine gun section 19.

Table of Organization, 1944

The F-series division T/O was approved on May 5, 1944, although the infantry regiment T/O was approved in March with changes made in July. However, reorganization of infantry units had already begun when draft T/Os were provided to divisions in January 1944. The deployed divisions were reorganized accordingly: 1st MarDiv on Pavuvu Island in May–June, 2d MarDiv in Hawaii in February–May, 3d MarDiv on Guadalcanal in May–June, and 4th MarDiv on Maui in February–April 1944.

There were refinements in subunit organization, some relocation of weapons, and new weapons were fielded. Again, HQs at all echelons were increased. Crew-served weapons platoons slightly gained or lost strength. The major changes were the elimination of the battalion weapons companies (Cos D, H, M). The 81mm mortar platoon was reassigned to the battalion HQ company, and the three MG platoons merged with the rifle companies' weapons platoons as a company MG platoon.

A 1st MarDiv BAR team is seen during the fighting in Peleliu's Umurbrogol Pocket, considered to be among the most rugged terrain encountered anywhere in the Pacific. As often, the gunner has removed the bipod and flash-suppressor, to reduce both unnecessary weight and features liable to snag in brush. The 1944 reorganization gave each 12-man rifle squad three BARs. The by-the-book allocation was 21 of the 20-round magazines for each four-man fire team including a two-man BAR team: nine for the BAR man, eight for his assistant, and two each for the fire team leader and the rifleman. Some, naturally, chose to carry more. (HD/MCU)

The regimental HQ&S company now consisted of company headquarters, communication platoon, and regimental headquarters section (with R-1, 2, 3, & 4 staff sections, and aid station), intelligence and paymaster sections. The supply section was increased to a 71-man service platoon, which greatly improved logistics and staying-power.

The regimental weapons company had a large headquarters, three platoons with 4x 37mm M3A1 AT guns each, and a platoon with 4x (previously 2x) SPM M3 halftrack-mounted 75mm guns. The 37mm platoons also had 2x 2.36in M1A1 AT rocket launchers (bazookas). Each SPM mounted an M1919A4 LMG, and the platoon HQ had a fifth. Each SPM carried a bazooka, and additionally the company HQ section had a pool of 17x bazookas and 10x .50cal M2 HMGs – 6x on AA mounts and 4x on ground mounts or for vehicle mounting (these were unmanned, and could be distributed to regimental elements outside the company.) There were also 6x LMGs with three-man crews for regimental HQ security.

Infantry battalions now had a HQ company and three rifle companies. The weapons company was eliminated, and the mortar platoon with 4x 81mm was reassigned to the HQ company. The HQ company now had a company HQ and battalion HQ (with aid station), intelligence and supply sections, plus a communication platoon. Its supply section was assigned 27x flamethrowers and demolition kits, one for each of the battalion's rifle squads if needed.

Personnel, Infantry Regiment within Marine Division			
F-series T/O, March 27, 1944	**3,326**	**G-series T/O, May 1, 1945**	**3,412**
HQ&S Company	261	HQ&S Company	249
Infantry Battalion (x3)	912	Infantry Battalion (x3)	996
HQ Company	213	HQ Company	270
Company HQ	17	Company HQ	26
Battalion HQ	165	Battalion HQ	131
81mm Mortar Platoon	58	81mm Mortar Platoon	58
—		Assault Platoon	55
Rifle Company (x3)	247	Rifle Company (x3)	242
Company HQ	53	Company HQ	51
Rifle Platoon (x3)	46	Rifle Platoon (x3)	45
Machine Gun Platoon	56	Machine Gun Platoon	46
Regimental Weapons Company	208	Regimental Weapons Company	175
Company HQ	76	Company HQ	51
37mm AT Gun Platoon (x3)	32	37mm AT Gun Platoon (x2)	40
75mm SP Gun Platoon	36	105mm SP Howitzer Platoon	44

The 1944 rifle company underwent a major reorganization. It now consisted of the company HQ, three rifle platoons, and a machine gun platoon instead of a weapons platoon. The company HQ had 3x M1A1 bazookas to distribute as necessary. The 60mm mortar section was reassigned from the weapons platoon to the company HQ. The MG section and one of the HMG platoons from the battalion weapons company were merged into a machine gun platoon; this had a HQ and three MG sections, each with two MG squads each with an M1919A4. There were also 6x unmanned reserve M1917A1 HMGs in the rifle company HQ. HMGs were found to be of only limited value due to the typically short engagement ranges in the Pacific theater, and their heavy weight reduced cross-country mobility. However, any combination of LMGs and HMGs might be fielded; since the MG section (of two squads) had 17 men, more than just six guns might actually be manned by the platoon.

For the amphibious assault, units were necessarily broken down into task-organized Regimental and Battalion Landing Teams, to be dispersed among the limited-capacity landing craft. The Landing Craft, Vehicle – like this one carrying follow-up troops to Betio Island, Tarawa – was a predecessor of the much more common Landing Craft, Vehicle and Personnel; both could carry 36 combat-equipped infantry, or a jeep with a 37mm AT (antitank) gun and 12 troops, or a 75mm pack howitzer. The crew of three or four sailors had two .30cal M1919A4 machine guns, mounted forward on the gunwales of the LCV or aft in gun tubs on the LCVP. These were mainly for AA defense; they were seldom used for direct suppressive fire ashore, for fear of causing "friendly fire" casualties. (HD/MCU)

The 43-man rifle platoon had a seven-man HQ with a lieutenant platoon commander, a platoon sergeant, platoon guide (sergeant), demolitions corporal, and three messengers. The HQ was armed with rifles except for the platoon commander and sergeant with carbines. The three 12-man rifle squads each had a squad leader (sergeant) and three four-man fire teams (Nos. 1, 2, 3) each with a fire team leader (corporal), automatic rifleman, his assistant, and one rifleman. The auto riflemen had M1919A2 BARs, the fire team leaders and riflemen M1 rifles and M7 grenade launchers, and the squad leader and assistant auto riflemen M1 carbines and M8 GLs. It was quickly determined that the carbine was inadequate in range, penetration, robustness, and reliability, with the added disadvantage of requiring different ammunition. The assistant BAR men's carbines were soon replaced by M1 rifles and M7 GLs. On paper the squad leader retained a carbine, but in reality the carbines, including those in platoon HQ, were replaced by M1 rifles or Thompson SMGs from unit resources. While every rifle- and carbine-armed man now received a GL, they did not all carry one.

D 3d MARINE DIVISION; BOUGAINVILLE,

SOLOMON ISLANDS, 1943

The 3d MarDiv, with the 3d, 9th and 21st Marines accompanied by the 2d Marine Raider Regt, operated at Cape Torokina on Bougainville in November and December 1943. Like the other South Pacific islands – Guadalcanal, New Georgia and New Britain – Bougainville was a "green hell" of exhausting heat and humidity, incessant rain, and insect pests.

The so-called "second pattern" camouflage utilities were now being issued (these terms being coined by post-war collectors). There were no differences between the "first" and "second" pattern jackets apart from slight manufacturing variations such as the exact shapes of pocket corners; the trousers had internal rather than patch pockets, and the small right "watch pocket" was deleted. Fabric shades varied greatly, however, even when new, and faded quickly with exposure to sunlight, rain and washing. Some young marines deliberately washed their utilities in seawater to fade them more quickly and achieve a "salty" look, and jackets and trousers of widely mismatched shades were

commonly seen. Buttons were metal – black lacquered, dark coppered, or brown-bronze steel – and embossed "U.S. MARINE CORPS."
(1) Automaric rifleman, 9th Marines This BAR man shows all the signs of a week in the jungle. By this date small numbers of the Army's 1942 jungle boots were being issued. He carries an M1918A2; the 1937-designed M1918A1 was converted to this standard early in the war, making it a pound heavier. It had the fire settings changed from semi-/fully automatic to low/high rates of fully automatic. The stronger bipod with reshaped feet was moved to the muzzle (but often removed), the magazine guides were strengthened, and the rear sight was (questionably) improved. It was not until later in the war that the black plastic butt, shortened forearm, and carrying handle appeared.
(2) Service company, 21st Marines This rear-area marine's gear is, by contrast, freshly issued. He wears the 1941 HBT utility cap based on the Army type; it could be worn under the helmet, or sometimes had a small bronze Corps badge added. A marine's initials and last name were stamped in ¼-inch black or white letters on all his clothing and equipment, and occasionally the last name was stenciled or hand-inked above the breast pocket. Bougainville was the last operation in which the Reising M50 (wooden stock) and M55 (folding stock – see Plate H) submachine guns were used, now mainly by supply personnel. Known as the "Buck Rogers gun" (after a popular cartoon spaceman) or the "Rusting gun" (after one of its drawbacks), the Reising was prone to jamming and breakages, and was replaced with the Thompson that was now becoming more widely available.
(3) Assistant automatic riflemen carried a pair of BAR bandoliers (left & right – the right shown here), each holding six magazines. Of the 12, two each could be distributed to the fire team's leader and riflemen.
(4) Men carrying Reising SMGs were provided with a five-pocket carrier for their 20-round magazines, of the same design as that for the Thompson but with slightly narrower, deeper pockets. Two styles of Reising magazine are shown.
(5) The Mk IIA1 "pineapple" fragmentation grenade was filled through the fuze well at the top rather than through a bottom hole. Most had improved sparkless/flashless fuzes.
(6) Assistant automatic riflemen were supposed to carry the 17-inch

long pick-mattock, shown here stowed for carrying.
(7) Adopted in 1915, the Navy Hospital Corps knife with an 11¼-inch blade was issued to the Corpsmen who were attached to USMC units as combat medics. Officially for clearing tent lines but actually used as a general-purpose machete, it was often retained even after the issue of the M1942 machete.
(8) The Army was just beginning to field colored smoke and flare signals projected from rifle grenade launchers. The Marines made some use of the Navy's Sedgley Mk V signal pistol, firing 10-gauge (.77cal/ 20mm) red, green, and white flares. It was issued with a web holster – 2 inches of the barrel protruding from the open bottom – and a 32-round Mk I cartridge belt. The cartridges came in ten-round color-coded boxes.
(9) The 3d Marine Division "battle blaze" was adopted in late summer 1943. This is an original felt example; later patches lacked the gold-yellow border. Correctly, the left half of the caltrop spikes should be black, but patches exist with the colors reversed.

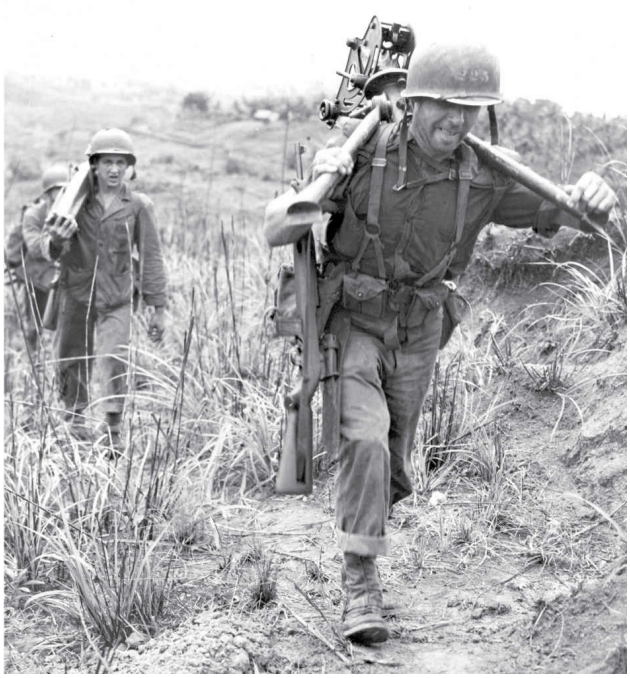
Table of Organization, 1945

The G-series division T/O was approved on September 4, 1945, but the infantry regiment T/O had already been approved on May 1, 1945. It was in fact implemented in March 1945, to be employed for the Okinawa assault on April 1 by the 1st, 2d, and 6th MarDivs. The divisions reorganized their regiments on Pavuvu Island, Saipan, and Guadalcanal, respectively. The other divisions reorganized soon afterwards. Most of the regiment's units and their own subunits were slightly adjusted. The most significant changes were the addition of an assault platoon to the battalion HQ companies; reduction of the battalion HQ within the HQ company; the loss of one 37mm AT gun platoon from the regimental weapons company; and the addition of a two-gun LMG section to the rifle company's weapons platoon, to total 8x guns. There was no change to the rifle platoon other than transferring the demolition corporal to the assault platoon.

Marines from a 3d MarDiv reserve unit going ashore on Guam from a Landing Craft, Mechanized Mk III; experience taught that one regiment of a division and/or one battalion of a regiment should remain offshore as a reserve during the initial assault, to be deployed later depending upon the progress of the operation. The 50-foot LCM(3) was designed to carry a tank or an artillery piece, but often delivered 60 reserve troops. Many of these marines, wearing haversacks with bedrolls, have removed their boots and rolled up their trousers to wade ashore – a sure sign that this beach has already been secured by assault units, who are now fighting their way inland. (HD/MCU)

Assault platoons

The 55-man assault platoon was a result of *ad hoc* assault teams being raised by various divisions for and since the costly November 1943 Tarawa assault. There the engineer battalion formed six-man assault teams armed with flamethrowers and demolitions, one per rifle platoon in the assault battalions. On Peleliu in October 1944 the 1st MarDiv formed a 60-man battalion weapons platoon for each infantry battalion, including three five-man flamethrower groups with two flamethrowers, backed by demolition teams and three bazookas. The men were mainly drawn from the HQ company. Similar assault teams were used on Iwo Jima in 1945. With the G-series T/O the assault platoon was formalized. The platoon HQ had ten men, and there were six seven-man squads – squad leader (using the rifle platoons' former demolition corporals), two-man flamethrower team, two-man bazooka team, and two-man demolition team. A two-squad section was led by a sergeant, with a section supporting each rifle company.



A heavy machine-gun squad from a rifle company's machine-gun platoon work their way up a ridge in the hilly terrain of Guam. After the disbandment of battalion weapons companies, the rifle company's weapons platoon converted to an MG platoon with six each M1919A4 LMGs and M1917A1 HMGs, but only manned by six squads (crews); any combination of the guns might be deployed. The gunner in front carries the M1917A1 tripod, to set it down where the squad leader indicates; the following assistant gunner (left) will then place the gun on the tripod. For self-defense the gunner carries a slung M1 carbine; he has five magazines, one in the carbine and two each in the two pockets on his pistol belt. Note also the K-Bar knife hanging on his right thigh. (HD/MCU)

Separate Marine regiments

Besides infantry regiments organic to divisions, the USMC organized separate regiments under a special 5,000-plus-man T/O. At various times the 3d, 4th, 22d, and 29th Marines were organized in this manner, and were either attached to brigades or operated as separate brigade-size task forces. They were eventually assigned to divisions. Divisional regiments were sometimes detached with habitual reinforcing units along the lines of regimental combat teams (see below), but the separate regiments were organized with additional organic supporting units, although not all of these were always assigned. Supporting units would normally bear a single-digit number. Separate regiments were designated, for example, 3d Marines (Reinforced). Divisional regiments, when detached from their parent division, would be designated in a similar manner, but the attached support units retained their parent divisional battalions' designations.

Two marines burn out a Japanese position on Iwo Jima with flamethrowers; they are covered by riflemen outside the photo. The 1944 reorganization gave rifle battalion HQ companies 27 flamethrowers; on Peleliu 1st MarDiv battalions formed weapons platoons for assaults, with 6 flamethrowers and 6 bazookas plus demolitions personnel. The M2-2 flamethrower weighed 72lb with a full load of 4gals; it could fire for up to 10 seconds, but was usually husbanded in two-second bursts. These flamethrower tanks are camouflage-painted; contrary to popular belief, they would seldom ignite if struck by gunfire. (HD/MCU)

Separate regiments might be assigned the following attachments, although not all would necessarily be present: infantry regiment; 75mm artillery battalion; amphibian tractor, engineer, medical, motor transport, naval construction, pioneer, and/or tank companies; AT battery; and 40mm AA gun, ordnance, scout, and service and supply platoons; plus band section.

Regimental combat teams

The Marines employed a triangular reinforcement concept: that is, each echelon of maneuver units possessed three infantry units plus, usually, one or more fire support units – a weapons platoon at company level, a weapons company at battalion level, and at regimental level a weapons company and at least one artillery battalion in direct support. Special troops units such as tanks, engineers, pioneers, transport, medical, etc., were organized on a triangular basis in order to support infantry units as necessary. The attachments were similar to those shown above under “separate Marine regiments,” although usually fewer.

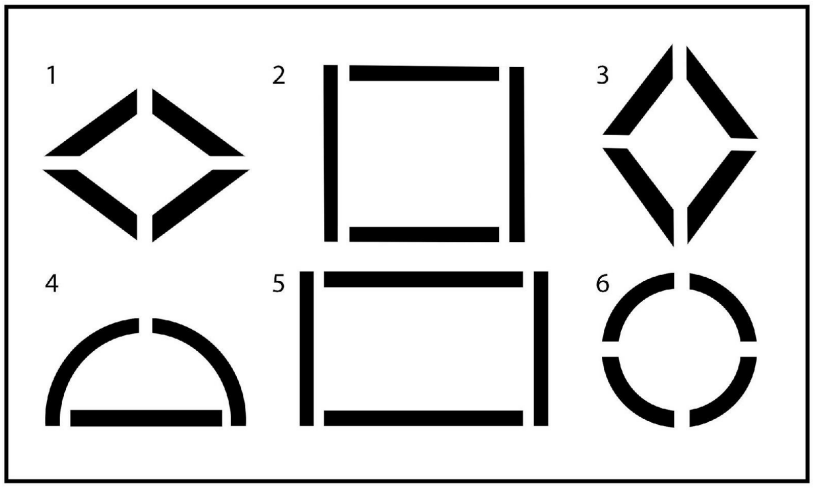
Infantry units did not fight as “pure” entities. They were task-organized for each operation, with the attachment of special and service troops subunits.

The task organization would change during the course of the operation. Additionally, task units did not necessarily receive an equal share of attached units. Units would be tailored depending on the priority of their missions, expected enemy resistance, and terrain. Some units would be attached to a Regimental Landing Team (RLT) or Battalion Landing Team (BLT) for control during the landing; once ashore, these units might revert to the control of their HQ when it arrived in a later wave. Divisions tended to use different nomenclatures for regimental and battalion task-organized teams prior to the terms RLT and BLT being standardized, for example Regimental Combat Groups or Combat Teams.

The regimental weapons company possessed three 4-gun platoons of 37mm M3A1 AT guns; here, a crew on Saipan fire on a Japanese pillbox. AP rounds were effective against hardened field fortifications, and HE rounds against lighter fortifications and exposed personnel. The canister round, with 122 lead balls, could be devastating against “banzai charges,” and was useful for stripping camouflaging vegetation off field fortifications, to expose them for assault teams with bazookas and satchel charges. Here, the hinged sheet-metal upper extension has been added to the gunshield; under magnification it can be seen to be riddled by machine-gun bullets, which appear not to have penetrated the main shield. (HD/MCU)

Early in the war, artillery and amtracs were often in theory attached to regiments, but in practice it was found that artillery was more effectively employed if a battalion was placed in direct support of a regiment while remaining under division control; this allowed the division to mass the fire of any number of battalions in support of any regiment. Likewise, an artillery

battery was never attached directly to a BLT, but remained under the artillery battalion’s control. Amtracs were usually under the control of a task-organized amtrac group that simply delivered the regiment and returned to their ships to land the reserve regiment and other elements. Subsequently they were used to deliver supplies and evacuate casualties.



In 1943–45 systems of stenciled code markings were adopted to identify some unit clothing and equipment. Marked within these shapes identifying the six divisions, sequences of digits identified unit and subunit; see under Plate E11. (Drawing by Mike Chappell)

E 4th MARINE DIVISION; SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS, 1944

The 4th MarDiv assaulted Saipan in June 1944 with the 23d, 24th, and 25th Marines; 44 days later the division led the assault on neighboring Tinian.

(1) Fire team leader, 24th Marines While camouflage uniforms had now been withdrawn from general issue, helmet covers were retained. Owing to the rapid fading of HBT utilities in use they were now being produced in darker shades of OD, though washing and sunlight still resulted in a range of color appearance. In the rifle squad, in early 1944 all M1 rifle-armed men were issued the new M7 grenade launcher, for which no carrier was provided. This replaced the squad's former single rifle grenadier with an M1903 rifle and M1 launcher. When fitted with the M7 the rifle could not be fired semi-automatic, and the operating handle had to be worked for each shot. Fire team leaders were issued with an M1942 machete, and an M1938 lensatic compass, both carried hooked to the belt along with the first aid pouch and two canteens. This team leader wears the M1941 haversack without the X-back suspenders, and with an M3 bayonet scabbard and T-handled entrenching tool hooked to its tabs.

(2) Squad leader, 25th Marines Rank insignia was seldom worn in combat, in order to avoid the attention of snipers. In 1944 the T/O&E

authorized just 49 submachine guns in the whole division, all in the tank battalion, but there were often more in the hands of the troops. Some units replaced squad leaders' carbines with harder-hitting SMGs or rifles. The M1 and externally identical M1A1 Thompson had begun to replace the M1928A1 in 1943; the earlier version was supposed to be turned in, but was retained by some units alongside the new guns. The M1/M1A1 was issued with 30-round box magazines and could accept the 20-round magazine of the M1928A1, but not its 50-round drum.
(3) The M7 grenade launcher fitted to the muzzle of an M1 rifle.
(4) The M15 white phosphorous (WP or "Willy Peter") smoke grenade provided dense screening smoke and an incendiary effect; burning particles showered out to 30 yards, inflicting casualties. They were especially effective against pillboxes and caves.
(5) The AN-M8 white smoke grenade burned for between 105 and 150 seconds; lacking an incendiary effect, it was used for screening friendly movements and blinding enemy positions.
(6) The 22¼-inch long T-handled entrenching tool ("e-tool" or "banjo") was issued with a carrier that could be double-hooked to the belt or the haversack.
(7) All fire-team and squad leaders, senior NCOs and officers were issued an M1938 lensatic compass with a small belt pouch; first aid pouches were also used for this purpose.
(8) The M1942 machete had an 18-inch blade and came with a canvas scabbard. Marines were trained to use it, the e-tool, and the pick-mattock as close-quarter weapons.
(9) Rear face of the 3-pocket SMG (submachine gun) magazine pouch, showing its broad belt loop and typical Marine Corps markings. *(Errata: four pocket flaps are shown.)*
(10) The 4th Marine Division "battle blaze" was adopted in late 1943 and issued after the February 1944 assault on Roi-Namur in the Marshall Islands. The Japanese airfield on Roi Island was shaped like a figure 4; the division requested that the still-unissued design be altered to reflect its exact shape, but this was denied, as the patch was already in production. Later examples lacked the white highlights.
(11) Example of the division's coded unit markings, as stenciled on equipment and some clothing. The three infantry regiments were code-

numbered using 300-series digits for the 23d Marines, 400-series for the 24th, and 500-series for the 25th. The regimental HQ&S Company was X01 and the Weapons Company X02. Within the regiments the second digit indicated the battalion (1, 2, or 3); and the third, the company (1 for HQ Co, and 2, 3, and 4 for the three rifle companies, respectively). Thus, "424" (stenciled perhaps 9 inches wide, on the back of utility jackets) indicated 24th Marines; 2d Bn; and Co G – the third rifle company of that battalion. The systems used varied between divisions, and a full record of only the 4th MarDiv system seems to have survived.

Weapons

Most of the weapons arming Marine regiments were standard Army designs, but a few types were uniquely employed by the Marines, namely the Johnson rifle and LMG, and the Reising SMGs mainly used by the paratroopers alongside the folding-stock M1A1 carbine. The Marines also had their own version of the M1903A1 sniper rifle, different from the Army's M1903A4. The Raiders made some use of the .55in Boys Mk I AT rifle, a British-designed and Canadian-made weapon. The unique and problem-ridden 60mm T20 shoulder-fired mortar saw its only use on Peleliu. World War I-era 3in (actually 81mm) Mk IA2 trench mortars, and Vivien-Bessières Mk III grenade launchers, saw use in the Philippines and on Guadalcanal, respectively.

Weapons issued to Marine Infantry Regiments, 1941–45

Feed capacities for magazine- and belt-fed weapons are included, and the year the weapon was introduced – usually later than the year in which it was officially adopted.

Weapon	Capacity	Introduced
.45cal M1911, M1911A1 pistols (Colt)	7	1913, 1926
.30cal M1 rifle (Garand)	8	1942
.30cal M1903, M1903A1, M1903A3 rifles (Springfield)	5	1908, 1939, 1942
.30cal M1903A1 sniper rifle (Springfield)	5	1942
.30cal M1941 rifle (Johnson)*	10	1941
.30cal M1, M1A1* carbines	15	1942, 1943
.45cal M1928A1 SMG (Thompson)	20 & 50	1932
.45cal M1, M1A1 SMGs (Thompson)	20 & 30	1942
.45cal M50, M55* SMGs (Reising)	20	1942
.30cal M1918A1, M1918A2 automatic rifles (Browning)	20	1937, 1941
.30cal M1941 LMG (Johnson)*	20	1941
.30cal M1919A4 LMG (Browning)	250 belt	1940
.30cal M1917A1 HMG (Browning)	250 belt	1937
.50cal M2 MG (Browning)	105 belt	1933
.55cal Mk I AT rifle (Boys)*	5	1942
12ga M97, M12 shotguns (Winchester)*	6	1917
10ga Mk 5 signal pistol (Sedgley)	1	1930s
Mk III GL (Vivien-Bessières) (M1903 rifle)*	1	1918
M1 GL (M1903 rifle)	1	1941
M7 GL (M1 rifle)	1	1943
M8 GL (M1 carbine)	1	1943
M1, M1A1, M2-2 portable flamethrowers	4–5 bursts	1942, 1943, 1944
60mm T20 shoulder-fired mortar*	1	1944
60mm M2 mortar	1	1938
81mm M1 mortar	1	1937
3in (81mm) Mk IA2 trench mortar (Stokes)*	1	1918
2.36in M1, M1A1 AT rocket launchers ("bazooka")	1	1942, 1943
2.36in M9, M9A1 rocket launchers ("bazooka")	1	1944
37mm M3A1 AT gun†	1	1939
75mm M3, M3A1 self-propelled guns (SPM halftracks)†	1	1941
105mm M7, M7B1 "Priest" self-propelled howitzers†	1	1945

Notes:
* Special or limited issue weapons, mainly to Paratroopers or Raiders.
† Regimental weapons company.

The bolt-action M1903 Springfield was replaced by the semi-automatic M1 Garand in the FMF by late 1943. It was augmented by the M1 carbine as a personal defense weapon to replace the pistol; from 1943 onwards there were no pistols in the infantry regiment's table of equipment.

Artillery battalions supporting infantry regiments were armed with 75mm M1A1 pack howitzers, and from early 1942 they were augmented by 105mm M2A1 howitzers. By early 1944 divisions had two each 75mm and 105mm battalions, and by early 1945 the 105mm had largely replaced the 75mm. The regiments could be supported by FMFPac's separate artillery battalions equipped with M1A1 155mm howitzers and M1 guns.

1 Marine parachute units were colloquially called “Paramarines,” a term discouraged by the USMC, since it might be understood as implying that they were “half-” or “semi-Marines.”

2 The T/O specified 6x 20mm AA/AT guns of unspecified model in the regimental weapons company’s three AT platoons, and four in the battalion weapons company’s AT platoon, but all available 20mm guns were then being fitted on ships. Early AT platoons were issued obsolete French-designed 37mm M1916 infantry guns for training, but these were replaced with 4x 37mm M3A1 AT guns in all platoons prior to overseas deployment.

REGIMENTAL TACTICS

A Marine division conducting an amphibious assault normally deployed with two regiments landing and a third in the division reserve. In some instances of two-division assaults, one of the divisional reserve regiments might be tasked as the corps or landing force “floating reserve.” If a diversionary “demonstration” was part of the landing plan, this would be performed by the reserve regiment, which might revert to the corps reserve once the demonstration was completed. The purpose of such demonstrations was to provoke the enemy to shift units to the demonstration beach, but this seldom if ever occurred – solidly dug-in Japanese units defending beaches remained in place. Another practice was for nearby islets to be cleared, often by elements of the reserve regiment, and for artillery to be positioned there to support the assault.

Battalion landing beaches were typically about 600 yards wide. On the cliff-ringed island of Tinian the two available beaches were only 60 and 160 yards wide, and more than a mile apart. Instead of the amtracs landing two battalions abreast, on July 25, 1944 they had to land there in columns of companies, and at low tide the shallow water was so encumbered with coral heads and rock outcrops that most troops had to wade ashore. A total of 543 amtracs and 68 amphibian tanks were committed at Tinian, and suffered minimal losses. The island was only 3 miles south of Saipan, which was already secured, so the landing was supported by the 168 guns of V Amphibious Corps’ Marine and Army artillery emplaced there. (HD/MCU)

From late 1943 – following the bloody experience at Tarawa – the assault regiments were landed by amtracs rather than more vulnerable LCVPs. Amtracs also had the advantage of being able to cross offshore coral reefs, which at Tarawa had halted LCVPs and exposed the debarking troops to heavy fire as they waded ashore. Amtracs might even cross the beach and deliver troops to the first available cover. Attempts to keep troops aboard amtracs and debark them further inland usually failed, however, owing to enemy resistance and restrictive terrain. An amtrac battalion could deliver a regiment's assault elements, and from the beginning of 1944 these two assault battalions were preceded by amphibian tanks (often designated "Wave Zero").

Assault troops debarking from an LVT(1) on Tinian; note at left a jagged coral outcrop. The man at far right on the amtrac, with a slung carbine, has a 2.36in M1A1 bazooka; Marine units received both that older version and the improved M9. The beach areas on Tinian were so small that the assault units charged inland to enlarge the beachhead as quickly as possible, accompanied by those amtracs that managed to do so, which carried ammo and supplies rather than dumping them on the congested beach. (HD/MCU)

From 1944, 4th MarDiv rifle platoons were organized into distinct assault and boat teams, each in an amtrac; other divisions organized somewhat differently. The 18- to 20-man assault team was led by the platoon leader with an MG group (2x LMGs from the weapons/MG platoon), bazooka group, and demolition group – the latter two formed from a rifle squad. The

two boat teams were each built around a rifle squad, platoon HQ troops, and other attachments. The assault team fought its way ashore supported by the following boat teams, which aided the assault team, protected the rear and flanks, and mopped-up. The teams would reconsolidate into a normal platoon during a lull or when rotated out of the line into reserve.

Betio Island's 3- to 5-foot high seawall, robustly constructed of coconut palm logs, provided desperate marines at Tarawa with cover and concealment, but crossing it while totally exposed invited death and wounds. Japanese rifle and light machine gun positions were built behind it, and were often not discovered until the defenders opened fire at point-blank range. Note that the marine standing at right carries a 5-gallon can of flamethrower fuel, while two men atop the seawall appear to carry waterproofed black rubber bags for signal equipment. (HD/MCU)

Within each battalion, two rifle companies constituted the first wave, followed by the second wave with the reserve rifle company, weapons company, and headquarters and support elements. Ideally, regimental beaches were 1,200 yards wide, providing two 600-yard beaches for the two lead battalions, but in practice they might be much narrower.

The regimental reserve battalion followed one of the first two battalions. Usually it would land behind the assault battalion on its regiment's right or left flank, so that it could either protect that flank, or advance to expand the beachhead by going into the line. The assault battalions fought their way inland toward the "O-1 Line" – the first day's objective line – though it was

seldom that all or even most of the O-1 Line was reached on D-Day. Extra effort was made to close any gap between the two assault regiments. The same applied to the gap between divisions in a multi-division assault, with the divisions' inner flanking regiments under urgent pressure to close the gap by nightfall. Regimental scout/sniper platoons and divisional scout companies might have been deployed to cover gaps. Artillery, tank, and engineer units and initial shore-party elements soon followed, and AA units would also land early if there was an air threat. More shore-party personnel arrived with medical, supply, and service elements. A unit's main command post usually arrived with its reserve.

Saipan: a rifle squad taking cover from intense fire. From early 1944 the platoon's three rifle squads were assigned 13 men: a sergeant squad leader, and three numbered four-man fire teams comprising a corporal team leader, a BAR man and his assistant, and a rifleman. Squad strength would begin to dwindle from the water's edge, and might be reduced to two fire teams within hours. When squads had only six or seven men left the platoon was usually consolidated into two squads, with squad leaders doubling as fire team leaders. Before 1945, rebuilding units with replacements had to wait until the operation had been completed. (HD/MCU)

Once ashore, regiments usually attacked with two battalions in the line, each battalion with two companies and each company with two platoons in the line. This meant that of a regiment's nine rifle companies four were in the line, and of its 27 rifle platoons, eight were in the line. The third platoon behind the two forward platoons was not called a "reserve platoon," but rather the "support platoon," as it could usually place fire between the forward platoons and protect their flanks and any gaps. For all practical purposes the support platoon was also in the frontline.

On Peleliu, reinforced concrete buildings on the airfield just inland from the landing beaches had been bombarded into rubble, which the Japanese used to improvise crude bomb shelters. The 1st MarDiv assault troops quickly expended their available grenades, and details were sent back to the beaches to recover cases which had been dumped from amtracs, and even individual grenades from earlier casualties. The marines also quickly ran short of water; 55gal drums previously used for fuel had not been cleaned adequately, so contaminated the water. (HD/MCU)

Of course, at any echelon the reserve company or support platoon might be brought into the line owing to the need to cover extended frontages, or when vegetation and rugged terrain limited fire coverage and complicated command and control. This was at the discretion of the unit commander, as was the rotation of subunits between the frontline and the reserve/support. There was no fixed rotation schedule; it was based on the need to give particular subunits a short break while rotating “fresh” subunits into the line to maintain momentum. As they advanced, reserves also mopped-up bypassed enemy pockets and stragglers.

On Saipan, a fire team searches for snipers in the wrecked town of Garapan. A BAR man climbs through a window, while at right his carbine-armed assistant gunner watches the rear. Below his BAR magazine bandolier and ahead of the canteen can be seen a K-Bar knife. (HD/MCU)

At nightfall, defense units might be deployed in a similar two-up, one-back manner, but all three subunits could be deployed in the defense line if necessary; the front needed to be densely defended, owing to the threat of Japanese infiltration and mass “banzai” charges. The choice of whether subunits were two-up and one-back or all three up would not be consistent throughout a regiment, battalion, or company, but as different echelon commanders saw fit to cover their assigned frontage. Some form of reserve, even if only a single company, was held at the regimental echelon. At night, gaps between units could be covered by small arms, machine guns, artillery, mortars, patrols, and listening posts. A common problem was that units continued to attack right up until nightfall in an effort to gain as much ground as possible. This left them no daylight to establish interlocking defenses, dig in, and study the ground in front of them. Elements of service units might be deployed in a second line behind the front to intercept infiltrators.

The Marines preferred to land on or near one of the ends of the objective island, so as to clear the immediate area for secure rear sites for artillery, CPs, dumps, aid stations, and reserves. Ideally, they would then sweep up the island’s length, compressing the enemy into pockets to be eliminated. If they

had to land on a beach near the middle of an island's coast the major effort was devoted to first attacking across to the opposite coast in order to sever the island in two. The end with the least enemy forces would then be cleared, often by reserve units, while the main attack continued to push the enemy up to the far end.

Units suffering heavy casualties seldom received replacements in the field (except on Iwo Jima and Okinawa). An inadequate number of replacements were provided to the 2d and 4th MarDivs between the Saipan and Tinian landings, and prior to these assaults in the Marianas there were no dedicated replacements other than some volunteers from service and support units. Regiments would rebuild and retrain only after the operation was completed. Companies taking heavy casualties would reorganize into two platoons, or even three squad-sized platoons if particularly battered. It was rare for companies to be dissolved, no matter how understrength they became.

The diamond painted on the turret of this M4A2 medium tank photographed on Guam identifies it as belonging to 3d MarDiv; it still has the MT-2 fording kit adapter housing on the rear hull, but the MT-5 fording stacks used during the landing have been jettisoned. Shermans of the Marine divisions' tank battalions were used mainly as "assault guns," to destroy pillboxes and defended caves with their 75mm main guns and to provide suppressive fire with their co-axial and bow .30cal machine guns. Many tank units removed the .50cal mounted externally on the turret top, to prevent it being turned against accompanying infantry by Japanese who might clamber aboard "buttoned-up" tanks during close-quarter fighting. Unless halted tanks were attracting heavy fire from Japanese support weapons, infantrymen closed up tight to protect them from enemy troops rushing in with demolition charges and hand-held mines. (HD/MCU)

Sometimes units outside of the regiment might serve as a reserve, to include engineers and *ad hoc* provisional units formed from service troops.

Infrequently, a frontline regiment's reserve might be provided by the divisional reserve regiment. As the Marines advanced into an island's narrowing end, subunits might be "pinched out of the line" as frontages were reduced, and those relieved from the line continued mopping-up behind the advance.

On some large islands no attempts were made to clear the entire extent. The landing force established a lodgment to seize and restore an existing airfield or build new ones. A well-defended perimeter was established, and aggressive patrolling was undertaken to harass the Japanese, who maintained their own defended areas at some distance. Examples include initial operations on Guadalcanal and New Georgia, Vella Lavella, Bougainville, and New Britain. Typically, the remaining Japanese would batter themselves against the lodgment for some time.

A major factor affecting tactics was the objective islands' terrain. In the South Pacific the Solomons were large, heavily jungled and hilly, with frequent swamps. In the Central Pacific the islands were essentially sandbars as part of coral atolls. The Western Pacific islands were moderately large with low, brush-covered hills. Reefs, coastal cliffs, and the width of beaches all varied greatly.

THE REGIMENTS IN COMBAT

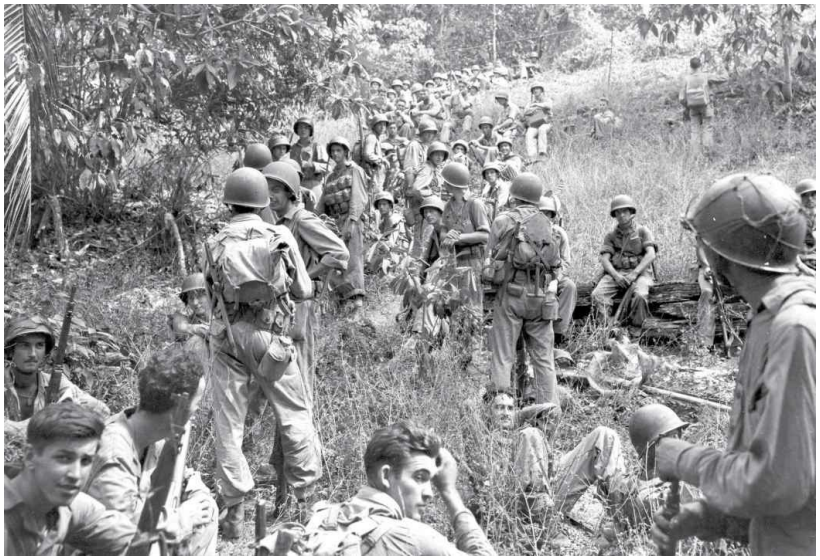
The note-form summary at the end of each regimental entry repeats the dates of the regiment's and component units' activations, assignments to higher formations, and deactivations prior to, during, and in the immediate aftermath of World War II. It then lists unit awards: PUC = Presidential Unit Citation, NUC = Navy Unit Commendation. If an award was granted to an entire division or brigade rather than the individual regiment, the formation designation follows in parentheses. Finally, any Medal of Honor recipients are named.

1st Marines – 1st MarDiv

The first permanent 1st Marines Regiment was activated on November 27, 1913 as the 2d Advance Base Regiment. It served in Mexico in 1914, Haiti in 1915–16, and the Dominican Republic in 1916. There it switched designations with the 1st Regt of Marines on July 1, 1916, and deactivated at the end of that year. (Many histories of the 1st and 2d Marines ignore this switch of designations, and refer to them by their post-1916 designations throughout.) The 1st Regt was reactivated in January 1917 as a fixed defense force, then reorganized as infantry and deployed to Cuba at the end of 1918. It was deactivated in April 1922, reactivated that August, and deactivated again in July 1924. It was reactivated in March 1925 at Quantico, redesignated 1st Marines on July 10, 1930, and deactivated in November 1931. The 1st Marines was reactivated on March 1, 941 on Culebra Island, Puerto Rico from 5th and 7th Marines cadres, and assigned to the 1st MarDiv. The 1st MarDiv was based at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba until moving to Quantico in May 1941, and then to New River in June. Departing Virginia in May 1942, the division arrived in Wellington, NZ in June.

Immediately tasked with securing Guadalcanal, the 1st Marines followed the 5th Marines ashore on August 7, and through the Henderson Field defensive phase the 1st Marines defended the perimeter's eastern sector. The westward push commenced on November 1, and the 1st Marines fought until December 22, when it was shipped to Brisbane, Australia and thence to

Melbourne. Between September and November 1943 the 1st Marines staged to Goodenough Island.



Guadalcanal: the Marine attacks to the west of the Henderson Field perimeter commenced in November 1942 after the Japanese had expended significant strength battering themselves against the defenses held by the 1st, 5th and 7th Marines. Two men with their backs to the camera carry M1941 haversacks, the nearer one with the attached 16-inch bayonet reaching well below it, and note that at this date marines only received a single 1-quart water canteen. Facing the camera in the background left of center, one man can be seen to wear the carrier vest – see Plate B4 – for Vivien-Bessières rifle grenades. (HD/MCU)

From there the division assaulted Cape Gloucester on the western end of New Britain on December 26, 1943, landing on the northwest flank of the beachhead; 2/1 Marines had landed earlier on the opposite side of the cape as a blocking force. A lodgment was established on the cape, and two airfields were built. The regiment remained there until March 1944, when the Army's 40th Inf Div relieved the division. It moved to Pavuvu in the Russel Islands near Guadalcanal. On September 15, 1944 the 1st MarDiv assaulted Peleliu, with the 1st Marines landing on the beachhead's left flank. The regiment pushed into the southern end of the Umurbrogol Mountains by the 20th – a mile from the beach – but suffered 45 percent casualties and became combat ineffective; scratch companies had to defend its portion of the line. The Army's 321st Inf from 81st Inf Div relieved the 1st Marines, which on October 2 embarked for Pavuvu.

Rebuilt, the division assaulted Okinawa on April 1, 1945 with the 1st Marines in reserve and following the 5th and 7th Marines ashore. The division defended the rear areas to include those of the Army. At the end of May the division relieved the 96th Inf Div on the eastern flank, and latter was shifted to the right flank. The island was secured on June 18. The division remained there preparing for the invasion of Japan, but instead landed in Northern China on September 30, 1945. It departed China in April and May 1947, and has been stationed at Camp Pendleton ever since.

Marine Infantry Regiment Combat Days

Regiments are grouped by divisional assignments, to allow easier tracking and comparison of combat campaign participation. The start and end dates begin on D-Day or a later date when the unit arrived during the campaign, and end on the day the island was officially declared secure, or the unit was withdrawn prior to the campaign's conclusion. Mopping-up and limited combat action usually continued for some time thereafter.

	1st MarDiv			2d MarDiv			3d MarDiv			4th MarDiv			5th MarDiv			6th MarDiv		
Operation	*1st*	*5th*	*7th*	*2d*	*6th*	*8th*	*3d*	*9th*	*21st*	*23d*	*24th*	*25th*	*26th*	*27th*	*28th*	*4th*	*22d*	*29th*
Philippines																131*		
Guadalcanal	137	124	88	177	35	98												
Bougainville							55	58	33									
Tarawa				5	19	5												
New Britain	67	63	67															
Roi-Namur										9	9	6						
Eniwetok																	9*	
Saipan				29	29	29				29	29	29						29§
Tinian				8	8	8				9	9	9						
Guam							25	25	25							25†	25†	
Peleliu	17	31	34															
Iwo Jima							15	30	23	35	35	35	35	35	35			
Okinawa	82	82	82	1#		15‡										82	82	82
Total days	*303*	*300*	*280*	*219*	*91*	*155*	*95*	*113*	*81*	*82*	*82*	*79*	*35*	*35*	*35*	*238*	*116*	*82*

Notes:
* = Then a separate regiment. † = Assigned to 1st Prov MarBde. ‡ = Attached to 1st MarDiv.
§ = 1/29 only attached to 2d MarDiv – not included in total days.
# = 2/2 only deployed for demonstration – not included in total days.

1st Marines
2d Advanced Base Regt activated Philadelphia, November 27, 1913 and assigned to 1st Advance Base Bde; attached to 1st Bde; redesignated 1st Regt of Marines, July 1, 1916; deactivated December 20, 1916; reactivated Philadelphia as artillery, January 25, 1917; reorganized as infantry, December 1918; deactivated April 22, 1922. Reactivated Dominican Republic, August 1, 1922; deactivated, July 1, 1924; reactivated Quantico, March 15, 1925; redesignated 1st Marines, July 10, 1930; deactivated November 1, 1931. Reactivated Culebra Island, March 1, 1941, and assigned to 1st MarBde; has remained active.
Awards:
PUC (Navy) – Guadalcanal (1st MarDiv); PUC (Navy) – Peleliu, Ngesebus & Palau (1st MarDiv); PUC (Navy) – Okinawa (1st MarDiv).
Medals of Honor: Cpl John P. Fardy; Pvt Dale M. Hansen; Cpl Louis J. Hauge Jr; Pfc William A. Foster; Sgt Elbert L. Kinser; Capt Everett P. Pope.

2d Marines – 2d MarDiv

The 1st Advanced Base Regt was activated at Philadelphia in June 1913. It was assigned to the 1st Advance Base Bde serving in Mexico in 1914, served in Haiti in 1915, the Dominican Republic in 1916, and was attached to the 1st Bde. It was redesignated the 2d Regt in 1916, and the 2d Marines in 1933. It was deactivated in 1934 after long assignment to the 1st Bde. It was reactivated in February 1941 by splitting the 6th Marines, and assigned to the 2d MarDiv. It deployed to Koro Island, Fiji in July 1942 to rendezvous with the 1st MarDiv, and departed for Guadalcanal. During the August 7 landing the 2d Marines served as the division reserve, and then defended the Tulagi-Gavutu Islands. Part of the regiment was withdrawn to Espíritu Santo, and returned to Guadalcanal in October. The 2d Marines was reassigned to the 2d MarDiv in January 1943 when that division relieved the 1st MarDiv, and remained until February, when the 2d MarDiv departed Guadalcanal and assembled in Wellington, NZ.

The division assaulted Betio Island in Tarawa Atoll on November 20, 1943. The 2d Marines landed at the western end of the north shore. At heavy cost, the island was secured on November 23, and the 2d MarDiv was shipped to Hawaii to rebuild. The division departed Hawaii at the end of

May, and assaulted Saipan's lower west coast on June 15, 1944. The 2d Marines was the division reserve, landing the next day. The island was secured on July 9. Nearby Tinian was assaulted on July 25 by a shore-to-shore landing, with 4th MarDiv leading the way; the 2d Marines cleared the eastern shore of the island. The 2d MarDiv remained on Saipan mopping-up until it departed for Okinawa in late May 1945. The division served as the Tenth Army floating reserve off Okinawa from March 31 to April 11. It sailed to Saipan as the area reserve, and prepared for the invasion of Japan; it landed in Japan for occupation duty in September. The 2d Marines shipped to Camp Lejeune in July 1946, and has remained active.

Peleliu: 1st MarDiv assault troops board an LCVP using chain "nets" with wooden horizontal rungs, rather than conventional rope landing nets. Marines already in the boat try to hold the chains steady for those still descending. (HD/MCU)

2d Marines

Activated in Philadelphia as 1st Advanced Base Regt, June 1913; redesignated 1st Advanced Base Bde, December 23, 1913; redesignated 1st Regt, February 18, 1914; redesignated 2d Regt, July 1, 1916; deactivated, August 15, 1934. Reactivated as 2d Marines, February 1, 1941, and assigned to 2d MarDiv; has remained active.

Awards:
PUC (Navy) – Tarawa (2d MarDiv).
Medals of Honor: 1st Lt William D. Hawkins; Col David M. Shoup.

F 5th MARINE DIVISION; IWO JIMA, 1945

The 5th MarDiv assaulted the isolated volcanic island of Iwo Jima in February 1945, with the 26th, 27th, and 28th Marines partly manned by former members of the 1st Marine Parachute Regt, the two jump schools, and the Parachute Replacement Company. Although it was the division's only combat operation, some 40 percent of the troops had previous combat experience.

(1) Rifleman, 27th Marines Temperatures ranged from the low 50s°F to the high 70s°F, with occasional rain, and the troops were issued the Army's "M1941" Parsons field jacket to wear over their HBTs; this would also be worn by marines on Okinawa. Trousers were worn bloused inside leggings. This rifleman, who has just waded ashore, shows the "brown" side of the helmet camouflage cover. Centered below his cartridge belt at the back is the M2 individual jungle first aid

kit, which was now general issue. In addition to the usual combat load, assault troops rolled up three 14 x 26.5-inch burlap sandbags and secured them on top of the M1941 haversack by means of the bedroll strap. These would be filled when digging-in, and emptied and carried further when the advance continued. On the left of the haversack is fixed the M7 fiberglass scabbard (M3A1 until April 1943) for the new M1 bayonet with 10-inch blade. Around his body he carries a six-pocket disposable bandolier with 6x 8-round Garand clips.

(2) Squad leader, 28th Marines This NCO has the same uniform, but wears the field jacket both over the top of his web gear, and turned inside out. Its light olive drab exterior quickly faded to tan; while useful in sandy areas, this stood out against vegetation and darker-colored terrain, so some men reversed it to expose the darker wool lining. The squad leader carries an M1 carbine with its M8 grenade launcher fitted. (While Army carbine magazine pockets could be fitted onto the small of the stock, the Marine type could not.) With his left hand he carries three T7 antitank mines configured as grenades, on their carrier belt. The pouch for the T7 was a soft bag with a fold-over top that fastened with two pairs of tie tapes; the web loop on the rear fastened to one of five snaps on the modified trouser belt used as a carrier.

(3) M1941 haversack with the top flap open showing typical markings – "U.S.M.C." over a maker's name and a date. Note too the fold-over side flaps to protect the contents.

(4) Top of the M1941 (modified) or "M1944" haversack, which had an extended roll-over "throat" design the better to keep out sand, dust, and rain.

(5) The M1941 (modified) haversack packed and closed, with its longer securing straps passed right around the body. It had the same bayonet (left) and e-tool (center) attachment tabs, and the same bedroll straps at top and sides, as the original design.

The Marine Corps Pack system had five configurations: Light Marching Pack (haversack only, no cartridge belt); Marching Pack (haversack, cartridge belt, suspenders); Field Marching Pack (haversack with blanket roll); Transport Pack (haversack with M1941 knapsack coupled beneath it, long blanket roll, no cartridge belt); and Field Transport Pack (haversack, knapsack, blanket roll, and cartridge belt).

We do not illustrate the knapsack, which was not intended to be worn into action.
(6) Six-pocket, 48-round bandolier, with *en-bloc* clip of eight rounds for the M1 rifle.
(7) M2 individual jungle first aid pouch, with its contents: athlete's foot treatment, iodine, insect repellent, sulfadiazine "wound tablets," water purification tablets, anti-malaria tablets, field dressing in tin, and adhesive bandages.
(8) As well as the Army's M1938 wire-cutters, resistant to 5,000 volts, the Marines also used this strengthened 9-inch "bighead" version.
(9) The T7 light AT mine, weighing just under 3.6lb and based on the British No.75 "Hawkins" mine/grenade, was first used on Iwo Jima in this grenade configuration. For this the mine's pressure plate was removed, and an adapter with a blasting cap, a few inches of time fuze, and an M1 fuze igniter, was screwed into the booby-trap well in the end. Any number could be placed in demolition bags as satchel charges; as AT mines they were buried in their pouches so that dirt would not work its way between the pressure plate and the body. These munitions were allocated 50 per rifle company, 100 per pioneer company, and 300 per engineer company.
(10) M8 grenade launcher on muzzle of M1 carbine.
(11) The 5th Marine Division's "battle blaze" was designed in March 1944; this is an original wool-backed version.

3d Marines – 3d MarDiv

The 3d Regt of Marines was activated in December 1916 in the Dominican Republic, and assigned to the 2d Prov MarBde. It was deactivated there in August 1922. The 3rd Marines was reactivated in June 1942 from training battalions at New River, and assigned to the FMF. It was moved to San Diego in August, and shipped to Samoa for assignment to 2d MarBde (Reinforced) in September. In October it was reassigned to the 3d MarDiv. In March 1943 it was reassigned to FMF, departing Samoa for New Zealand in May; in June it was reassigned to the 3d MarDiv, to replace the 23d Marines, but remained attached to 2d MarBde. The division echeloned to New Zealand

in January and March 1943, and moved to Guadalcanal between June and August.

From Guadalcanal it staged to Bougainville, where the 3d Marines assaulted Cape Torokina on the division's right flank on September 27. Relieved by the Army's Americal Div, most 3rd MarDiv units departed for Guadalcanal in January 1944.

The division assaulted Guam on July 21, 1944, with the 3d Marines landing on the northern flank. The division fought northward up the island's western half until near the end, when it was in the center of the line with the 1st Prov MarBde on its left and the 77th Inf Div on the right. The island was secured on August 10; the 3d MarDiv remained on Guam mopping-up and training until February 1945.

Iwo Jima was assaulted on February 19, with the 3d MarDiv as a floating reserve to be landed a few days later. The 3d Marines remained afloat as the Expeditionary Force reserve until departing for Guam in March. The rest of the division returned to Guam in April to prepare for the invasion of Japan. The war over, it was tasked as the FMFPac reserve in case of hostilities by bypassed Japanese forces on Central Pacific islands. The division was deactivated in December 1945 on Guam. The 3d Marines (-1st Bn) was deactivated at Camp Pendleton in January 1946. The 1st Bn was deactivated on Chichi Jima (north of Iwo Jima) in June 1946. The 3d Marines was reactivated in June 1951 at Camp Pendleton, and assigned to the 3d MarBde. In January 1952 it provided the core of the reactivated 3d MarDiv, and has since remained active.

Tarawa: 2d MarDiv assault troops, mostly wearing camouflage utilities and armed with M1 carbines, descend a rope landing net into amtracs bound for Betio; note the correct grip on the vertical ropes, to avoid hands being stepped on by the man above. All wear the belt-type life preserver (often incorrectly called the "M1926") around their waists – see Plate H7. The two lower men are BAR assistant gunners, identified by their bulky magazine bandoliers. (HD/MCU)

3d Marines

Activated as 3d Prov Regt of Marines, Dominican Republic, December 20, 1916; deactivated August 1, 1922. Reactivated as 3d Marines, New River, June 16, 1942; reassigned to 2d MarBde (Reinforced), September 14, 1942; reassigned to FMF, March 31, 1943; reassigned to 3d MarDiv, June 6, 1943; deactivated January 13, 1946 (-1st Bn); 1st Bn deactivated, June 1, 1946.

Awards:

PUC (Navy) – Guam; NUC – Empress Augusta Bay, Bougainville & Solomons.

Medals of Honor: Pfc Leonard F. Mason; Sgt Robert A. Owens; Pfc Luther Skaggs Jr; Sgt Herbert J. Thomas Jr.

4th Marines – 6th MarDiv

There were essentially two regiments bearing this designation active during World War II. The 4th Regt of Marines was activated at Puget Sound, Washington in April 1914, and moved to San Diego that July. In 1915–16 it performed a show of force in Mexican waters, and in June 1916 was

deployed to the Dominican Republic, attached to the 2d MarBde. In August 1924 it redeployed, being assigned to the West Coast Expeditionary Force. In February 1927 the regiment deployed to China, and was attached to the 3d MarBde in May. The brigade departed in January 1929, but the 4th Regt remained in Shanghai. It was redesignated the 4th Marines in February 1930. The 2d MarBde, FMF arrived in China in September 1937, and the 4th Marines was attached. The brigade departed in February 1938, but again the 4th Marines remained. Ordered to evacuate China, the 4th Marines arrived in Manila, Philippines on December 1, 1941. The Olongapo Naval Base Marine Barracks, the 1st Separate Marine Bn, and the Naval Rifle Bn were absorbed into the regiment, along with US and Filipino troops from a total of 142 units and organizations. The four-battalion regiment numbered 3,900 (1,440 marines). It was moved to Corregidor on December 26–28, 1941, being made responsible for "The Rock's" beach defenses. The Japanese landed on May 5, 1942, and the regiment and the rest of the US and Filipino troops surrendered the next day.

A new 4th Marines was activated on Guadalcanal in February 1944, using the assets of the 1st Marine Raider Regt (see below). The separate reinforced regiment was attached to Task Group A, IMAC to secure unoccupied Emirau Island. In April 1944 the 4th Marines was attached to the 1st Prov MarBde on Guadalcanal. The 3d MarDiv and 1st Prov MarBde assaulted Guam on July 21, 1944, with the 4th Marines landing on the right flank of the accompanying 22d Marines. The 4th Marines helped clear the Orote Peninsula, and the brigade cleared and secured the southern portion of the island as the 3d MarDiv and 77th Inf Div advanced north. The brigade went into the line during the last few days of the battle. The brigade departed Guam and arrived at Tassafaronga, Guadalcanal; reinforced with other units, it was redesignated the 6th MarDiv in September 1944.

The division assaulted Okinawa on April 1, 1945; the 4th Marines landed on its right flank, and also provided a battalion for the division reserve. While Tenth Army moved south to the heavily defended portion of the island, the 6th MarDiv cleared the northern two-thirds. The 4th Marines advanced north along the east coast until May 4, when it was sent to the south and placed in the west end of the line. On June 4 the 4th Marines conducted a shore-to-shore assault on the Oroko Peninsula, spending the rest of the month clearing it, and then helped clear the Kiyan Peninsula. The island was secured on

June 22. The division moved to Guam in July to prepare for the invasion of Japan. Only the 4th Marines was sent to Japan, being the first Marine occupation unit to land on August 30, attached to the 1st MarDiv. In October the 6th MarDiv deployed to China, where the 4th Marines rejoined it in January 1946. It was deactivated at Tsingtao, China on March 31, 1946. The regiment was reactivated in September 1952 to replace the 21st Marines in the new 3d MarDiv, and has remained active.

4th Marines

Activated as 4th Regt of Marines, Puget Sound, WA, April 16, 1914; assigned 2d MarBde, November 1916; reassigned 3d MarBde, April 1927; redesignated 4th Marines, February 13, 1930. Reassigned 2d MarBde, September 1937; detached from 2d MarBde, February 1938; surrendered May 6, 1942, Corregidor.

Reactivated Guadalcanal, February 1, 1944, from 1st Marine Raider Regt; reassigned 1 Prov MarBde, April 19, 1944; reassigned to 6th MarDiv, September 8, 1944; deactivated Tsingtao, China, March 31, 1946.

Awards:

PUC (Army) – Philippines; PUC (Army) – Manila; NUC – Guam (1st Prov MarBde).

Medal of Honor: Cpl Richard E. Bush.

5th Marines – 1st MarDiv

The 5th Regt of Marines was activated in June 1917 for assignment to the Army's 2d Division alongside the 6th Regt, and shipped to France in June and July. It fought in the Aisne, Aisne-Marne, St Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne, Toulon-Tryon, Chateau-Thierry, Marbache, and Limey campaigns. After occupation duty in Germany from December 1918 to July 1919, it returned to Quantico in August 1919 and deactivated. Reactivated in 1920, it served in Nicaragua from 1926 to 1930, when it was deactivated. Reactivated in 1934, it was ready for expeditionary duty on the East Coast. Reassigned to the 1st MarDiv in February 1941 on Culebra Island, Puerto Rico, the regiment moved to Guantánamo, Cuba, then to Quantico in May 1941, and to New River in June.

Departing Virginia in May 1942, the division arrived in Wellington, NZ in June, and was immediately tasked with securing Guadalcanal. The

5th Marines led the August 7 unopposed landing on Lunga Point in north-central Guadalcanal. It primarily defended the western end of the Henderson Field perimeter. The westwards push began on November 1, and the regiment fought until December 22 (island secured February 7, 1943), then shipped to Brisbane, Australia and later Melbourne. Between September and November 1943 the 5th Marines staged to Goodenough Island. From there the division assaulted Cape Gloucester on New Britain on December 26, 1943, on the northwest flank of the beachhead. The 5th Marines was the division reserve and landed on the 28th; once the perimeter was secured the 5th defended the western sector.

On March 6, 1944 the 5th Marines (Landing Team A) assaulted the Willaumez Peninsula on the north-central coast of New Britain, landing at Volupai to interdict Japanese withdrawing to their Rabaul stronghold on the island's northern end, but it soon returned to the main perimeter. The regiment was relieved by the 40th Inf Div, and departed in April 1944 for Pavuvu in the Russel Islands. On September 15 the 1st MarDv assaulted Peleliu. The 5th Marines landed in the center of the beachhead on the southwest coast, between the 1st and 7th Marines. The regiment fought on the island's east side as well as the north end, and secured islands off the east coast. Exhausted, it was relieved by the 81st Inf Div on October 20, and the 5th departed for Pavuvu at the end of the month.

In the "green hell" of Bougainville, where the 3d Marines landed on September 27, 1943, a 60mm mortar squad work their way up a jungle trail churned into deep mud by amtracs, trucks (which usually had to be towed by amtracs), and the island's incessant rain. This, and the dense vegetation,

meant that troop movements took two or three times longer than normal. Each of the two – later increased to three – mortar squads in the rifle company's weapons platoon had six men. Here the second from left carries the slung M2 mortar, and those ahead of him M1 ammunition bags on shoulder straps, holding six 60mm rounds. (HD/MCU)

The division assaulted the southwest coast of Okinawa on April 1, 1945, with the 5th Marines on the right flank of the 1st MarDiv and IIIAC, adjacent to XXIV Corps to the south. The division defended the rear areas, to include the Army's, until the end of May, when it relieved the 96th Inf Div on the east flank, later shifting to the right flank. After the island was secured on June 18 the division remained there and prepared for the invasion of Japan, but instead it landed in Northern China on September 30, 1945. The 5th Marines departed China in May 1947, and has been stationed at Camp Pendleton ever since.

5th Marines

Activated as 5th Regt of Marines, Philadelphia, June 8, 1917; assigned to 1st Expeditionary Div, June 27, 1917; reassigned to 4th MarBde, October 23, and to 2d Div, October 26, 1917; reassigned to Naval Service, August 8, 1919; deactivated, August 13, 1919. Reactivated July 8, 1920, assigned to 2d Advance Base Force; attached to 2d Bde, March 1926; deactivated, April 11, 1930. Reactivated Quantico, September 1, 1934; assigned to 1 MarBde, FMF, September 1, 1935; assigned to 1st MarDiv, February 1, 1941; has remained active.

Awards:

PUC (Navy) – Guadalcanal (1st MarDiv); PUC (Navy) – Peleliu, Ngesebus & Palau (1st MarDiv); PUC (Navy) – Okinawa (1st MarDiv).

Medals of Honor: Cpl Lewis K. Bausell; Cpl Anthony Casamento; 1st Lt Carlton R. Rouh; Pfc Albert E. Schwab.

6th Marines – 2d MarDiv

The 6th Regt of Marines was activated at Quantico in July 1917, deployed to France between September 1917 and January 1918, and was assigned to 4th Bde of the Army's 2d Div in January 1918. It fought in the Aisne, Aisne-Marne, St Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne, Toulon-Tryon, Chateau-Thierry, Marbache, and Limey campaigns. After occupation duty in Germany from December 1918 to July 1919, it returned to Quantico in August 1919 and

deactivated. It was reactivated at Quantico in September 1921, and elements deployed to Cuba and the Dominican Republic in 1924 and 1925; it was deactivated that year. It was reactivated in March 1927 and deployed to China, attached to the 3d MarBde. It redeployed to San Diego in March 1928, and was deactivated in March 1929. It was redesignated the 6th Marines when reactivated in San Diego in September 1934. In July 1936 it was assigned to the 2d MarBde, FMF. It was deployed to China with the 3d MarBde from September 1937 to April 1938, when it returned to San Diego. Reassigned to the 2d MarDiv in February 1941, the 6th Marines deployed to Norfolk, VA and was attached to the 1st MarBde (Prov) on June 1941; that July it deployed to Iceland as a defense force. It redeployed in February and March 1942 and rejoined the 2d MarDiv in San Diego. The 6th Marines deployed with the division to Wellington, NZ in October and November 1942.

The 6th arrived on Guadalcanal with the Advance Echelon, HQ, 2d MarDiv on January 4, 1943. It helped clear the western end of the island, serving with the *ad hoc* Composite Army-Marine Division from January 25 to February 9. The 2d MarDiv departed Guadalcanal and assembled in Wellington during February. The division assaulted Betio Island in Tarawa Atoll on November 20, 1943. The 6th Marines was the corps, then division reserve, and was released to the division on the 21st to help complete clearing the island. The island was secured on the 23rd; until November 26 the 6th Marines mopped-up, and cleared all the islets in the atoll.

Okinawa, where the re-born 4th Marines landed on April 1, 1945 on the right of 6th MarDiv's beachhead: an M1 Thompson gunner fires a burst. The BAR man ahead of him still has the old M1910 T-handle "e-tool" on his pack, although by now most troops were receiving the folding M1943. (HD/MCU)

The division departed Hawaii at the end of May and assaulted Saipan's lower west coast on June 15, 1944; the 6th Marines landed on the division's northern flank. Advancing north, the 6th was between the 2d and 8th Marines on the east side of the island, which was secured on July 9. Nearby Tinian was assaulted on July 25 by a shore-to-shore landing with 4th MarDiv leading the way. The 6th Marines cleared the eastern inland portion of the island. The 2d MarDiv remained on Saipan mopping-up until departing for Okinawa in late May 1945. The division served as the Tenth Army floating reserve off Okinawa from March 31 to April 11. It sailed back to Saipan as the area reserve and prepared for the invasion of Japan. It landed in Japan for occupation duty in September. The 6th Marines was shipped to Camp Lejeune in July 1946, and has remained active.

6th Marines

Activated as 6th Regt of Marines, Quantico, July 11, 1917; assigned to 4th MarBde and 2d Div, January 1918; deactivated January 13, 1919. Reactivated September 15, 1921; deactivated March 15, 1925; reactivated March 26, 1927; assigned 3d MarBde, May 2, 1927; deactivated March 31, 1929. Reactivated as 6th Marines, September 1, 1934; assigned to 2d MarBde, FMF, July 1, 1936; reassigned to 2d MarDiv, February 1, 1941; attached to 1st MarBde (Prov), June 16, 1941; rejoined 2d MarDiv, February–March 1942; has remained active.

Awards:

PUC (Navy) – Tarawa (2d MarDiv).

Medal of Honor: Pfc Harold G. Epperson.

7th Marines – 1st MarDiv

The 7th Regt of Marines activated in Philadelphia in August 1917 and deployed to Cuba, where it was attached to the 3d Bde until July 1918, and then to the 6th Bde, before deactivation in September 1919. Reactivated as the 7th Marines in September 1933 for service in Cuba, but never deployed, it was deactivated in January 1934. It was reactivated in January 1941 by

splitting the 5th Marines, and assigned to the 1st MarBde, FMF at Guantánamo, and then to the 1st MarDiv in February. The regiment was attached to the 3d MarBde, FMF in March 1942, and deployed to Western Samoa in May 1942.

It was reassigned to the 1st MarDiv in September 1942 and deployed to Guadalcanal, as that division's first reinforcements since the landing. It helped defend Henderson Field and took part in the westward push. It departed Guadalcanal in January 1943 and was shipped to Brisbane, Australia and then Melbourne. Between September and November 1943 the 7th Marines staged to Oro Bay, New Guinea. From there the division assaulted Cape Gloucester on New Britain on December 26, 1943; the 5th Marines landed at Borgen Bay southeast of the cape. A lodgment was established on the cape and two airfields were built. The 5th operated under the Assistant Division Commander Group to secure the perimeter, while the rest of the division fought in the line. The regiment remained there until March, when the Army's 40th Inf Div relieved the division. It moved to Pavuvu in the nearby Russel Islands. On September 15, 1944 the 1st MarDv assaulted Peleliu, with the 7th Marines landing on the beachhead's right flank. The regiment cleared the island's south end, and then skirted the Umurbrogol Mountains on the west coast and attempted to reduce the pocket. The 81st Inf Div relieved the 1st MarDiv, which on October 19 embarked for Pavuvu.

Guadalcanal: a 5th Marines position defending “L Company Ridge” at the western end of the Henderson Field perimeter. This marine has a .45cal Thompson M1928A1 with the 50-round drum fitted, although a five-pocket carrier for 20-round box magazines can be seen beside his right leg. So too can yellow-painted Mk II “frag” grenades, which were also rigged with tripwires in the vegetation below the limestone ridge. On the left is one of the two .30cal M1919A4 light machine guns from the company’s weapons platoon. (HD/MCU)

Rebuilt, the division assaulted Okinawa on April 1, 1945, with the 7th Marines in reserve and following the 1st and 5th Marines ashore. The division defended the rear areas, to include the Army’s. At the end of May the division relieved the 96th Inf Div on the eastern flank, later being shifted to the right flank; the island was secured on June 18. The division remained there, preparing for the invasion of Japan, but instead it landed in Northern China on September 30, 1945. It departed China in January 1947; briefly deactivated March 6, 1967, it was reactivated October 1. It was stationed at Camp Pendleton until 1990, and since then at Twentynine Palms, California.

Tarawa: in the clutter of a sandbagged position, a marine winds up to throw a grenade – so his target must be only 25–30 yards away at most. Against the sandbags to his left stands a discarded M1919A4 LMG; high rates of fire and sandy beaches caused frequent malfunctions. To his right, his buddy holds a canteen that to judge from its angle is almost empty – the 2d MarDiv assault troops suffered badly from a shortage of drinking water. The 6th Marines landed on the western end of Betio on D+1, but the battle still had two bloody days to run. As the troops inched their way forward over fire-swept ground they often had to push and drag sandbags and debris with them to give some rudimentary cover, repeating this exhausting process as they advanced. (HD/MCU)

7th Marines

Activated as 7th Regt of Marines, Philadelphia, August 14, 1917; attached to 3d Bde, December 1917; attached to 6th Bde, December 1918; deactivated September 6, 1919. Reactivated, Quantico, as 7th Marines, September 6, 1933; deactivated January 17, 1934. Reactivated, Guantánamo Bay, January 1, 1941, and assigned to 1st MarBde, FMF; reassigned to 1st MarDiv, February 1, 1941; attached to 3d MarBde, FMF, March 21, 1942; reassigned to 1st MarDiv, September 18, 1942; reassigned to 3d MarBde, January 1947; deactivated March 6, 1947.

Awards:

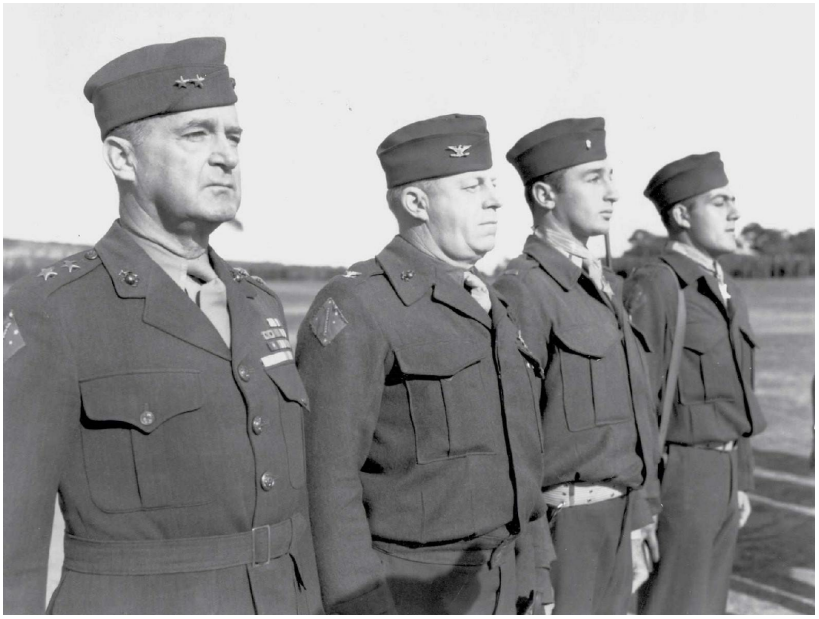
PUC (Navy) – Guadalcanal (1st MarDiv); PUC (Navy) – Peleliu, Ngesebus & Palau (1st MarDiv); PUC (Navy) – Okinawa (1st MarDiv).

Medals of Honor: Sgt John Basilone; Pfc Arthur J. Jackson; Pfc John D. New; P/Sgt Mitchell Paige; Pfc Wesley Phelps; Pfc Charles H. Roan.

8th Marines – 2d MarDiv

The 8th Regt of Marines was activated at Quantico in October 1917 and shipped to Galveston, TX in November. There it was prepared to secure oilfields in Mexico. It was attached to the 3d Prov MarBde in August 1918, and deactivated in April 1919 in Philadelphia. The 1st Bn was reactivated on Haiti in December 1919, and the regiment itself in January 1920. The regiment was deactivated on Haiti in July 1925. With the expansion of the Corps in 1940 the 8th Marines was reactivated in April in San Diego, and assigned to the 2d MarBde, FMF. It was reassigned to the 2d MarDiv upon the division's activation in February 1941.

After Pearl Harbor the 8th Marines defended the Lower California coast. Attached to the 2d MarBde (Reinforced) during December 1941, it was shipped to Samoa, where it remained until November 1942. Deployed to Guadalcanal, it was attached to the 1st MarDiv until January 1943 when Advance Echelon, 2d MarDiv arrived, and the 8th Marines was placed under its command. After being rebuilt in New Zealand, the division assaulted Betio Island, Tarawa Atoll on November 20, 1943; as the division reserve, the 8th Marines landed piecemeal over two days. The division shipped to Hawaii to rebuild.



An award ceremony in Australia, May 1943, following 1st MarDiv's withdrawal from Guadalcanal: (left to right) MajGen Alexander A. Vandegrift, commanding general 1st MarDiv; Col Merritt A. Edson, CO 5th Marines; 2nd Lt Mitchell Paige, and PtnSgt John Basilone, both 7th Marines, and both

recipients of the Medal of Honor at this ceremony. Vandegrift wears forest-green service uniform, the other three the Australian-made battledress blouse nicknamed the "Vandegrift jacket." Vandegrift and Edson display 1st MarDiv "battle blazes" on their right upper sleeves, the opposite to the regulation position. (HD/MCU)

The "Striking Eighth" assaulted Saipan's lower west coast on June 15, 1944 on the division's right flank. It fought northward, mainly in the central portion, until the island was secured on July 9. A shore-to-shore assault was launched on Tinian on July 24; the 8th Marines came ashore the next day, and remained as the division reserve until July 30, when it went into the line on the central part of the front. The island was declared secured on August 1, but mopping-up continued; the 8th Marines remained on Tinian until it rejoined the division on Saipan in late 1944 to rebuild. On April 1, 1945, when the Tenth Army assaulted Okinawa, the 2d MarDiv was the IIIAC floating reserve, and returned to Saipan on April 11 as the area reserve. The 8th Marines returned to Okinawa on May 30, and secured small islands off the east coast. It went ashore on June 15, and was attached to the 1st MarDiv to help in mopping-up; the island was secured on June 21. Assembled on Saipan, the 2d MarDiv prepared for the invasion of Japan. It landed for occupation duty on September 23, and remained until June 1946. Returning to Camp Lejeune, much of the regiment was deactivated, the final elements in October 1949. It was reactivated at Camp Lejeune in August 1950 and assigned to the 2d MarDiv, and has since remained active.

8th Marines

Activated as 8th Regt of Marines, Quantico, October 9, 1917; assigned to 3d Prov MarBde, August 1918; deactivated April 25, 1919, Philadelphia. Reactivated Port-au-Prince, Haiti, January 5, 1920, and assigned to 1st Prov MarBde; deactivated July 1, 1925. Reactivated as 8th Marines, San Diego, April 1, 1940; reassigned 2d MarDiv, February 1, 1941; reassigned to 2d MarBde (Reinforced), December 24, 1941; detached from 2d MarBde, October 1942; reassigned to 2d MarDiv, February 1943; deactivated Camp Lejeune, October 17, 1949.

Awards:

PUC (Navy) – Tarawa (2d MarDiv).

Medal of Honor: 1st Lt Alexander Bonnyman Jr.

9th Marines – 3d MarDiv

The 9th Regt of Marines was activated at Quantico in October 1917, and deployed to Cuba with the 3d Prov MarBde in December. The brigade and regiment shipped to Galveston in August 1918 for possible operations in Mexico. In April 1919 it was shipped to Philadelphia and deactivated. It was reactivated as the 9th Marines at Camp Elliot and assigned to the 2d MarDiv in February 1942, with its 3d Battalion. The 1st Bn was activated in March and the 2d in April, from 2d and 6th Marines cadres. It was detached from the 2d MarDiv and assigned to Amphibious Corps, Pacific Fleet in September 1942. It was reassigned to the 3d MarDiv in September 1943 at Camp Pendleton. The division shipped to New Zealand in January and March 1943.

It moved to Guadalcanal between June and August. There it staged to Bougainville, the 9th Marines assaulting Cape Torokina on the division's left flank on September 27. Relieved by the Americal Div, most 3d MarDiv units departed for Guadalcanal in January 1944. The division assaulted Guam on July 21, 1944, with the 9th Marines landing on the west-central coast on the division's right flank. The division fought northward up the island's western half until near the end, when it was in the center of the line with the 1st Prov MarBde on its left and the 77th Inf Div on the right. The island was secured on August 10, but the 3d MarDiv remained on Guam mopping-up and training until February 1945.

Iwo Jima was assaulted on February 19, with the 3d MarDiv as a floating reserve to be landed a few days later. The 9th Marines landed on February 24 and fought in the island's central sector. Most of the division returned to Guam in April to prepare for the invasion of Japan. The war over, it was tasked as the FMFPac reserve in case of hostilities by bypassed Japanese island garrisons. The division was deactivated in December 1945 on Guam, and the 9th was deactivated at Camp Pendleton. The 9th Marines was reactivated on Guam in October 1947 and deployed to China in late 1948; it was deactivated at Camp Lejeune in October 1949. It was reactivated in 1952 and assigned to the newly reactivated 3d MarDiv; stationed in Japan, it has since remained active.

9th Marines

Activated as 9th Regt of Marines, Quantico, October 9, 1917; attached to 3d Prov MarBde, December 1917; detached from 3d Prov MarBde, August 1918; deactivated Philadelphia, April 25, 1919. Reactivated as 9th Marines & 3d Bn, Camp Elliot, February 12, 1942, and assigned to 2d MarDiv; 1st Bn activated March 1, & 2d Bn April 1, 1942; reassigned to Amphibious Corps, Pacific Fleet, August 3, 1942; reassigned to 3d MarDiv, September 1942; returned to Camp Pendleton and deactivated, December 31, 1945.

Awards:

Medals of Honor: 2nd Lt John Harold Leims; Pvt Wilson D. Watson; Cpt Louis H. Wilson Jr; Pfc Frank P. Witek.

21st Marines – 3d MarDiv

The 21st Marines was the first World War II Marine infantry regiment not previously raised. It was activated at Camp Elliot in July 1942, but actually raised at New River from 6th Marines cadres. In September it was assigned to the 3d MarDiv and the following month sent to San Diego. In February–March 1943 it deployed to Auckland, NZ.

The division shipped to Guadalcanal between June and August. From there it staged to Bougainville, assaulting Cape Torokina on September 27. The 21st Marines were the division reserve, and went ashore piecemeal during November 6–17. In January 1944 the Americal Div relieved the 3d MarDiv, and most units departed for Guadalcanal. The division assaulted Guam on July 21, 1944 with the 21st Marines landing on the west-central coast between the 3d and 9th Marines. The division fought northward up the island's western half, eventually ending up in the center of the line with the 1st Prov MarBde on its left and the 77th Inf Div on the right. The island was secured on August 10, and the 3d MarDiv remained on Guam mopping-up and training until February 1945.

Tarawa: men of the 8th Marines assault one of the main bombproof shelters on Betio. They employed satchel charges and grenades shoved down the air vents, flamethrowers, and flamethrower fuel poured in and ignited by grenades and demolitions. In the foreground, the wall behind which some marines shelter gives concealment but no protection at all; such walls were made simply of flattened-out oil drums nailed to palm logs. (HD/MCU)

For the Iwo Jima assault on February 19 the 3d MarDiv acted as a floating reserve, to be landed a few days later. The 21st Marines landed on February 21, and fought in the center of the island. Most of the division returned to Guam in April to prepare for the invasion of Japan. With the war over, it was tasked as the FMFPac reserve in case of resistance by bypassed Japanese forces. The 2d Bn/21st Marines occupied Truk, and was deactivated there. The 21st Marines was deactivated in December 1945 on Guam, along with the division. The 3d MarDiv was reactivated in 1952, but the 21st Marines was replaced by the 4th Marines.

21st Marines

Activated as 21st Marines on 14 July 1942, Camp Elliot, but raised at New River; assigned to 3d MarDiv, September 16, 1942; regiment (-) deactivated December 20, 1945 on Guam; 3d Bn deactivated December 17, 1945 on Guam; 2d Bn deactivated March 5, 1946 on Guam.

Awards:

PUC (Navy) – Iwo Jima (3d MarDiv); NUC – Guam

Medal of Honor: Cpl Hershel W. Williams.

22d Marines – 6th MarDiv

The 22d Marines was activated at Camp Elliot in June 1942 around 6th and 9th Marines cadres, and was the first organized as a reinforced regiment with

supporting units. At one point it was planned to assign it to the yet-to-be-activated 5th MarDiv. The first unit to be deployed overseas after the outbreak of war, it was shipped to Samoa, where it was attached to the 3d MarBde (Reinforced) in July 1942. It was relieved from the brigade in October 1943 and attached to Tactical Group 1, VAC.

The regiment secured Eniwetok Atoll in the Marshall Islands, landing at different points between February 17 and 21, 1944; there it was the first unit to officially employ the new fire-team tactics (see pages 23–24). It moved to Guadalcanal in early April to prepare for Guam, and was assigned to the 1st Prov MarBde. Guam was assaulted on July 21, with the 22d Marines landing on the center of the brigade's southern beaches. The regiment helped clear the island's southern region, and then the northwest; Guam was secured on August 10. The regiment returned to Guadalcanal, and was reassigned to the new 6th MarDiv in September.

Tarawa: ammunition bearers rush forward carrying wooden 250-round boxes for the M1917A1 machine gun. Huge amounts of MG and mortar ammunition were expended to suppress the numerous mutually supporting Japanese positions on Betio before they could be assaulted with hand-held weapons and munitions. (HD/MCU)

At Okinawa on April 1, 1945 the 22d Marines landed on the northernmost beaches on IIIAC's north flank. The division cleared the northern three-quarters of the island until May 4, when it was sent to the south to join Tenth

Army. The 22d Marines was the first of the division's regiments pushed into the line; on May 29 it captured Naha, the island's capital, and then cleared the Oroku Peninsula. The island was declared secure on June 21, but fighting continued into the next month. The 6th MarDiv returned to Guadalcanal to prepare for the invasion of Japan, but in October 1945 it deployed to China for occupation duty. It was deactivated in Tsingtao, China on March 31, 1946. The 22d Marines' 2d and 3d Bns were redesignated the new 2d and 3d Bns/ 4th Marines, which regiment had been reduced in strength in March 1946. The regiment and 1st Bn were deactivated at Camp Pendleton in March 1946.

22d Marines

Activated as 22d Marines at Camp Elliot, June 1, 1942; attached to 3d MarBde, FMF, July 29, 1942; reassigned to Tactical Group 1, October 31, 1942; reassigned to 1st Prov MarBde, April 19, 1944; reassigned to 6th MarDiv, September 7, 1944; 2d & 3d Bns/22d Marines redesignated 2d & 3d Bns/4th Marines, March 8, 1946; 1st Bn/22d Marines deactivated March 26, 1946 at Camp Pendleton.

Awards:

NUC – Eniwetok; NUC – Guam (1st Prov MarBde).

Medals of Honor: Maj Henry A. Courtney Jr; Cpl Anthony P. Damato; Cpl James L. Day.

23d Marines – 4th MarDiv

The 23d Marines was activated at New River in July 1942 around cadres from 6th and 9th Marines, and assigned to the 3d MarDiv. The regiment was reassigned to the 4th MarDiv in February 1943, and relocated to Camp Pendleton in the summer of 1943.

Departing California, the division assaulted Roi-Namur on February 1, 1944, and the 23d Marines secured Roi Island that same day. At the end of February the division shipped to Hawaii and prepared for the Marianas. The division assaulted Saipan on June 15, with the 23d Marines landing on the division's northern flank adjacent to the 2d MarDiv. It mainly cleared south-central Saipan. With Saipan secured on June 15, the 4th MarDiv assaulted Tinian on July 24, with the 23d Marines as the division reserve. The 23d advanced south along the east coast, and the island was secured on

August 1. The division retuned to Hawaii to rebuild, and assaulted Iwo Jima on February 19, 1945. The 23d Marines landed on the division's left flank adjacent to the 5th MarDiv, and then moved up the east coast. With the island secured on March 26, the division returned to Hawaii to prepare for the invasion of Japan, but the end of the war saw it shipped to Camp Pendleton. The 2d Bn/ 23d Marines was deactivated on November 10, 1945 and the rest of the regiment five days later. The 23d has served as a Reserve regiment since 1966.

On Bougainville, where the 9th Marines assaulted Cape Torokina on 3rd MarDiv's left flank, all ammunition, rations, water, and medical supplies had to be manhandled up to the perimeter positions by strong backs and two-wheel handcarts. In the deep, sticky mud the mobility of the 2½-ton trucks was severely degraded – note those left parked in the background. Companies in battalion and regimental reserve were often employed to augment the efforts of service troops in hauling supplies forward. (HD/MCU)

23d Marines
Activated as 23d Marines at New River, July 22, 1942; assigned to 4th MarDiv, February 15, 1943; 2d Bn deactivated at Camp Pendleton, November 10, 1945; 23d Marines (-) deactivated at Camp Pendleton, November 15, 1945.
Awards:

PUC (Navy) – Saipan & Tinian (4th MarDiv); PUC (Navy) – Iwo Jima (4th MarDiv).
Medals of Honor: Pfc Richard B. Anderson; Sgt Darrell S. Cole; Pfc Douglas T. Jacobson; Pvt Joseph W. Ozbourn.

24th Marines – 4th MarDiv

The 24th Marines was activated at Camp Pendleton in March 1943 as part of the 4th MarDiv, from the 1st–3d Separate Bns (Reinforced) raised in October 1942 and January and February 1943, respectively. The division departed California, and assaulted Roi-Namur on February 1, 1944, with the 23d Marines securing Namur Island the following day. At the end of February the division shipped to Hawaii and prepared for the Marianas. The division assaulted Saipan on June 15, with the 24th Marines as the division reserve. Following the 23d Marines ashore, it mainly cleared south-central Saipan and the east coast to the north. With Saipan secured on June 15, the 4th MarDiv assaulted Tinian on July 24; the 24th Marines came ashore on the north end and attacked down the west coast to the south end, and the island was secured on August 1. The division returned to Hawaii to rebuild, and assaulted Iwo Jima on February 19, 1945. The 24th Marines landed as the division reserve, and cleared the east-central coastal area. After the island was secured on March 26 the division returned to Hawaii to prepare for the invasion of Japan. In the event it was shipped home to Camp Pendleton, where the 24th Marines was deactivated in October 1945. From 1966 it was a Reserve regiment, until the HQ and 3d Bn were deactivated and the remaining battalions assigned to the 23d and 25th Marines.

Guam: led by a Sherman tank (left background), Marine infantry advance in a close line to flush the enemy out of the brush. The defenders of islands would dig well-concealed one-man holes throughout such areas, often waiting until they could fire on advancing marines from the flank or rear. They called such positions *takotsubo*, "octopus traps," after the small holes Japanese fishermen dug above the low tide line to trap octopuses when the tide receded. (HD/MCU)

24th Marines

Activated as 24th Marines, March 26, 1943 at Camp Pendleton, and assigned to 4th MarDiv; deactivated October 31, 1945 at Camp Pendleton.

Awards:

PUC (Navy) – Saipan & Tinian (4th MarDiv); PUC (Navy) – Iwo Jima (4th MarDiv).

Medals of Honor: LtCol Aquilla J. Dyess; Cpt Joseph J. McCarthy; 1st Lt John V. Power; Pvt Richard K. Sorenson.

G 6th MARINE DIVISION; OKINAWA, RYUKU ISLANDS, 1945

The 6th MarDiv landed on Okinawa on April 1, 1945 with the 4th, 22d and 29th Marines. Prior to reorganizing as a division it had fought on Guam as the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade, with the 4th and 22d Marines only.

On Tarawa in late 1943, Col David M. Shoup (2d Marines) noticed men discarding haversacks and other web gear and "fighting out of their pockets," where they carried ammunition, grenades, and K-rations. Shoup proposed a utility uniform with more and larger pockets, and the eventual result was the M1941 (modified) utilities, called the "M1944" by collectors. In fact, very few of these were issued while existing stocks of the M1941 uniform were used up, but some officers and service troops managed to acquire them, and they did see limited use on Okinawa. A camouflage version was also tested.

(1 & 2) Platoon commander, 22d Marines (Rank insignia were omitted in the field, but we illustrate this 1st lieutenant's silver collar bars to show their placement when worn.) The "second pattern" helmet cover had two rows of small slits for inserting foliage; they also made it easier to fit the cover over the helmet shell. The M1941 (modified) utility jacket had a flap added to the single breast pocket, and large internal breast pockets that were accessed through buttoned slits near the

jacket's front opening; the skirt front pockets were deleted. The trousers lost their front pockets, and two large "bellows" cargo pockets with two-button flaps were added outside the thighs, along with a full-width seat pocket with a three-button flap. To support the weight of loaded pockets, eyelets were added to the trouser waistband to take the hooks of the M1941 suspenders (not visible here).

The platoon commander is equipped with an M1936 pistol belt supporting a .45cal M1911A1 pistol in a russet leather M1916 holster; a lensatic compass carried in an M1942 first aid pouch; a carbine ammunition pocket, with the tack stitches broken to extend it to take pistol magazines; a canteen; and the M2 jungle first aid pouch. Slung from his shoulders are a black case for 6x30 Mk 19 binoculars (Army cases were brown), and a "dispatch" or map case. He is armed with the ubiquitous M1 carbine. In 1943–44 neither officers nor anyone else in Marine infantry regiments had carried pistols, which the carbine officially replaced, but pistols were reintroduced in early 1945.

(3) Officers were issued the field bag – a modification of the Army's M1936 field bag or "musette" – rather than the M1941 MCP. It could be carried at the hip by its sling, or – as here – the two-pad sling could be rigged as shoulder straps for carrying it on the back. A later version had the same fold-over "roll throat" as the modified MCP haversack and knapsack.

(4) The field bag open, showing the fold-over side flaps, the internal divider, and markings.

(5) Officers and senior NCOs carried a dispatch case/map case based on the Army's M1938; the Marine version differed in having a leather-covered carrying handle at the top (see G2).

(6) The two-pocket grenade carrier, with a double-hook behind the top and a tie-tape for the leg, could hold either "frags" or the larger WP and smoke grenades. The Corps also made some use of the Army's similar three-pocket version.

(7) For "pillbox-busting," it was common to attach one or two ½lb TNT blocks to a fragmentation grenade with friction tape. The charges and tape naturally had to be fitted carefully so that they did not interfere with the functioning of the arming lever.

(8) The M16 colored smoke grenade was available in red, orange,

yellow, green, violet, blue, and black. At this date it was being replaced with the M18, which came in only red, yellow, green, and violet, but which was more vividly colored and burned for longer.
(9) The Mk I illumination grenade ignited after a 7-second delay to burn for 25 seconds; on the ground it lit up a radius of 100 yards all round. Being filled with magnesium, it was also used for incendiary purposes.
(10) The 6th Marine Division's "battle blaze" was approved in October 1944; this is an original version, with twill backing

25th Marines – 4th MarDiv

The 25th Marines was activated in May 1943 at Camp Lejeune from 23d Marines cadres, and assigned to the 4th MarDiv, which it joined at Camp Pendleton in the summer of 1943. The division assaulted Roi-Namur on February 1, 1944, with the 25th Marines securing six small islands to the south. At the end of February the division shipped to Hawaii and prepared for the Marianas operation. When the division assaulted Saipan on June 15 the 25th Marines landed on its southern flank. It mainly cleared south-central Saipan, then fought inland from the east coast to the north until the island was secured on June 15. When the 4th MarDiv assaulted Tinian on July 24 the 25th Marines landed on the north end and attacked inland down the west coast to the south end. After Tinian was secured on August 1 the division returned to Hawaii to rebuild. It assaulted Iwo Jima on February 19, 1945; the 25th Marines landed on the division's right flank with 2/25 as the division reserve, and helped clear the east-central coastal area until the island was secured on March 26. The division returned to Hawaii to prepare for the invasion of Japan, but was shipped to Camp Pendleton, where the 25th Marines was deactivated in November 1945. From 1966 it was a Reserve regiment.

Both the 21st and 22d Marines landed separately on Guam on July 21, 1944. Here, debarked infantrymen on a narrow beach shelter behind a low dune line and halted amphibious tractors; a camouflage-painted amtrac is visible at the left. While the thin steel of the unarmored tractors gave little protection, their .30cal and .50cal machine guns could give covering fire. The nearest rifleman provides a good view of the "field marching pack" configuration, with M1941 haversack, bedroll, and entrenching tool. Hooked to his cartridge belt are a single canteen and, at his right hip, an M2 individual jungle first aid kit, and he carries with his left hand an M1 ammunition bag. (HD/MCU)

25th Marines
Activated as 25th Marines at Camp Lejeune, May 1, 1943, and assigned to 4th MarDiv; deactivated at Camp Pendleton, November 10, 1945.
Awards:
PUC (Navy) – Saipan & Tinian (4th MarDiv); PUC (Navy) – Iwo Jima (4th MarDiv).
Medals of Honor: LtCol Justice M. Chambers; Sgt Ross F. Gray.

26th Marines – 5th MarDiv

The 26th Marines was activated in January 1944 at Camp Pendleton, and assigned to the 5th MarDiv. The reinforced regiment was detached from the division on July 22, and deployed to the Marianas as a floating reserve for the 1st Prov MarBde fighting on Guam. The regiment sailed to Hawaii at the end of July and set up in Camp Tarawa, where the remainder of the 5th MarDiv arrived between August and October. It assaulted Iwo Jima on February 19, 1945, with the 26th Marines (-) serving as the VAC reserve and 3/26 as the division reserve. The 26th Marines helped clear the western part of the island; after Iwo Jima was secured on March 26 the regiment shipped to Hawaii to rebuild and train for the invasion of Japan. At the end of August the division

sailed to Saipan, then on to Japan for occupation duty, arriving on September 22. They remained until October, when they were reassigned to FMFPac for Western Pacific island occupation duty. The 2d Bn/26th Marines was deactivated in Japan in October, the HQ and 3d Bn on Peleliu, and the 1st Bn on Guam in March 1946.

On Saipan the 4th MarDiv's 23d, 24th and 25th Marines all got ashore on D-Day, but neither they nor the 2d MarDiv units to the north of them made rapid progress inland. This view shows follow-up troops waiting for the first wave to advance before they can leave the beach; a squad leader is standing to check his men – in the turmoil of an assault landing it was all too easy to inadvertently leave equipment or even weapons on the beach. At left is the bow of an LVT(A)4 amphibian tank, which was armed with a short 75mm howitzer and two machine guns. These led the first wave ashore, and then usually remained on the beach to provide fire support. If they tried to move inland they were susceptible to mines, craters, ditches, rocks, and tree stumps, as well as to even the lightest Japanese antitank guns, since only the turret had true tank armor. (HD/MCU)

26th Marines

Activated as 26th Marines at Camp Pendleton, January 10, 1944, and assigned to 5th MarDiv; detached from 5th MarDiv and assigned to FMFPac, October 19, 1945. 2d Bn deactivated in Japan, October 31, 1945; HQ and 3d Bn deactivated on Peleliu, March 5, and 1st Bn on Guam, March 15, 1946.

Awards:

PUC (Navy) – Iwo Jima (5th MarDiv).

Medals of Honor: Cpl Charles Joseph Berry; Pfc William Robert Caddy; Cpt Robert H. Dunlap; Pfc Jacklyn H. Lucas; Pfc Franklin E. Sigler.

27th Marines – 5th MarDiv

The 27th Marines was activated in January 1944 at Camp Pendleton and assigned to the 5th MarDiv, which shipped to Hawaii in August and October 1944. It assaulted Iwo Jima on February 19, 1945; the 27th Marines helped sever the island, then fought up the west coast. Returning to Hawaii, they rebuilt and prepared for Japan. On September 22 they landed in Japan for occupation duty, and departed on December 5. They were deactivated in January 1946 at Camp Pendleton.

27th Marines

Activated as 27th Marines at Camp Pendleton, January 10, 1943, and assigned to 5th MarDiv; deactivated at Camp Pendleton, January 10, 1946.

Awards:

PUC (Navy) – Iwo Jima (5th MarDiv).

Medals of Honor: PltSgt Joseph R. Julian; Pfc James D. LaBelle; 1st Lt Andrew J. Lummus Jr; GnySgt William G. Walsh.

28th Marines – 5th MarDiv

The 28th Marines was activated in February 1944 at Camp Pendleton and assigned to the 5th MarDiv. In August and October that year it moved to Hawaii, and then assaulted Iwo Jima on February 19, 1945. The regiment landed on the division's left flank, proceeding to seize Mt Suribachi and to sever the island; it fought along the west coast until the island was secured on March 26. It landed in Japan on September 22, and conducted occupation duty until December 5. Returning to Camp Pendleton, the 28th was deactivated there on January 28, 1946.

28th Marines

Activated as 28th Marines at Camp Pendleton, February 8, 1943 and assigned to 5th MarDiv; deactivated at Camp Pendleton, January 28, 1946.

Awards:

PUC (Navy) – Iwo Jima (5th MarDiv).

Medals of Honor: Sgt William G. Harrell; Pvt George Phillips; Cpl Tony Stein.

29th Marines – 6th MarDiv

The 29th Marines was activated as a separate regiment in May 1944 at Camp Lejeune, with its 2d and 3d Battalions. The 2d Separate Inf Bn was activated on Guadalcanal in April 1944 from 2d MarDiv excess personnel, and redesignated 1st Bn/29th Marines in May. At Saipan the regiment served as the 2d MarDiv reserve, and was then attached to the 8th Marines on June 15. It mopped-up on Saipan during the Tinian assault in July. When the 6th MarDiv was formed on Guadalcanal in September 1944 the 29th Marines was assigned to it, the regiment's separate companies being reassigned to divisional units. It assaulted on Okinawa as the VAC reserve on April 1, 1945, fighting first in the north and later in the south-central and southwest portions of the island. After Okinawa was secured on June 21, in July it was shipped to Guam to rebuild and prepare for the invasion of Japan. The 29th Marines landed in China with 6th MarDiv on October 11 for occupation duty. The 1st Bn was attached to the 1st MarDiv in February 1946. The 29th Marines and 3d Bn were deactivated on March 26, and the 1st Bn on March 31, 1946. The 2/29th was redesignated the 1/4th Marines in March 1946. The 29th Marines has never since been reactivated.

On Iwo Jima in February 1945 the weather was chilly enough for 5th MarDiv's 26th, 27th and 28th Marines to be issued Army field jackets to wear over their HBT utilities (see Plate F). This marine's M1 carbine is fitted with the M8 grenade launcher, with a range slightly less than that of the M7 launcher for the M1 rifle. On the side of his haversack is an M16 colored smoke grenade fitted to an M2 chemical grenade adapter, which allowed hand grenades to be launched as rifle grenades – in this case, for signaling or target-marking. He has a pick-mattock hooked to the back of his haversack, and holds in his left hand an M1943 folding e-tool. (HD/MCU)

29th Marines

Activated as 29th Marines (- 1st Bn) at Camp Lejeune, May 1, 1944; 1st Bn activated as 2d Separate Inf Bn; redesignated 1/29th on May 1, 1944, and attached to 2d MarDiv. 29th Marines & 1/29th reassigned to 6th MarDiv, September 10, 1944; 1/29th attached to 1st MarDiv, February 14, 1946; HQ & 3d Bn deactivated March 26 & 1st Bn on March 31, 1946.
2/29th redesignated 1/4th Marines, March 5, 1946.

Okinawa, where 6th MarDiv's 22d Marines landed on D-Day on IIIAC's northernmost beach: here assault troops debark from the rear ramp of an LVT(3)"Bushmaster." Preceded by a marine armed with an M1 Thompson, the flamethrower operator carries an M2-2, nicknamed the "Zippo" or "Blowtorch"; its range was approximately 60 yards with thickened fuel or 50 yards with unthickened. (HD/MCU)

Medal of Honor: Pvt Robert M. McTureous Jr.

1st Marine Parachute Regiment – IMAC

Four separate Marine parachute battalions were raised during 1941–43. The 1st–3d were assigned to the 1st–3d MarDivs, respectively, until reassigned to IMAC in January 1943; by that time the battalions had seen action on Guadalcanal (1st), Vella Lavella (2d), and Choiseul (2d), but made no combat jumps. The battalions assembled on New Caledonia, and the *ad hoc* IMAC Parachute Group was formed in March 1943 at Noumea. The 1st Marine Parachute Regt was activated at Tontouta on April 1, 1943, with the 4th Bn in the USA also assigned to it, though it never physically served with the regiment. The regiment with the 1st and 3d Bns fought on Bougainville from December 4, 1943 to January 12, 1944. The 1st Prcht Regt conducted a hit-and-run raid east of the perimeter at Koiari Beach on November 29. The regiment had been ordered to deactivate on December 30, 1943, and assembled on Guadalcanal. The battalions concentrated at San Diego in February 1944, and the regiment deactivated on February 29. The

personnel were reassigned to the new 26th-28th Marines assigned to the new 5th MarDiv. The regiment's authorized strength was 2,172 marines and 89 Navy medical personnel. In total, some 5,000-5,500 Marine and Navy paratroopers had served in the separate battalions and the regiment.

On Okinawa the 29th Marines formed VAC's reserve, fighting on several fronts before the island was officially declared secured on June 21; in fact, fighting went on into July. Here an M9 bazooka is aimed to fire smoke rockets to blind an enemy position – the sitting man at the right carries T27 hexachloroethane (HC) white smoke rounds ready for firing. The central group around the bazooka gunner also includes a BAR man, and one armed with an M1928A1 Thompson. The latter was supposed to be replaced with the M1 on a one-for-one basis, but many units retained the older version. (HD/MCU)

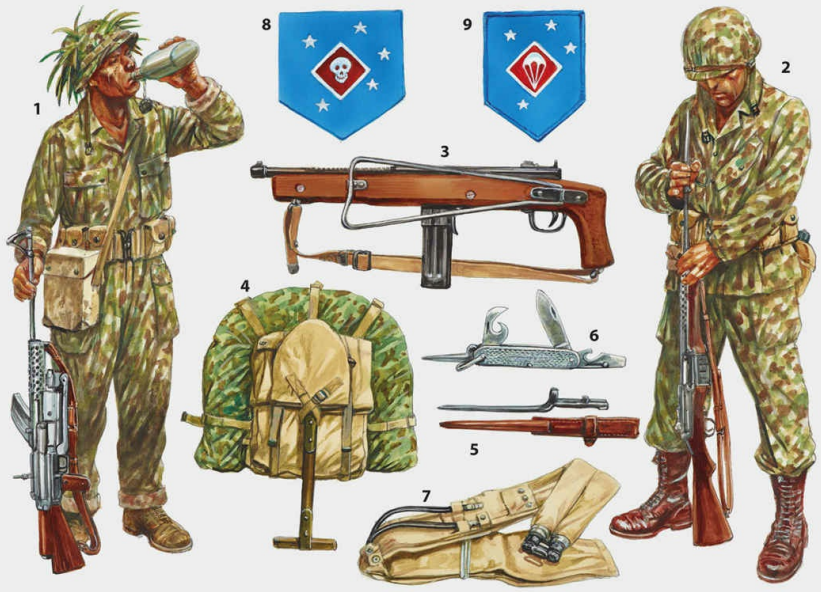
1st Marine Prcht Regt

1st Prcht Bn activated Quantico, August 15, 1941; 2d Prcht Bn activated San Diego, October 1, 1941; 3d Prcht Bn activated San Diego, September 16, 1942; 4th Prcht Bn activated Camp Lejeune, July 1, 1943. 1st–3d Prcht Bns reassigned from divisions to IMAC, January 1943; IMAC Prcht Group formed March 1943 at Noumea, New Caledonia; 1st Marine Prcht Regt activated April 1, 1943 at Tontouta, New Caledonia; 4th Prcht Bn deactivated Camp Pendleton, January 9, 1944. 1st Marine Prcht Regt deactivated San Diego, February 29, 1944, and personnel reassigned to 5th MarDiv regiments: 1st Prcht Bn to 26th Marines; 2d Prcht Bn to 27th Marines; 3d Prcht Bn to 28th Marines; 4th Prcht Bn to all three regiments.

1st Marine Raider Regiment – IMAC

In January and February 1941 the 1st and 2d MarDivs formed the 1st and 2d Separate Bns based on the British Commandos concept – small units of heavily armed amphibious raiders. In February 1942 they were redesignated Raider battalions, and reassigned to IMAC in October. The 3d and 4th Raider Bns were activated in the fall of 1942. Half of the 2d Raider Bn served on Midway Island during the Japanese attacks. The 2d Bn conducted the August 1942 Makin Island raid; it fought on Guadalcanal in November–December, as did the 1st Bn in August–October. The 3d Bn landed in the Russel Islands in February 1943. The 2d and 3d Raider Bns fought on Bougainville (see below), and the 1st and 4th Bns on New Georgia in July and August under the 1st Marine Raider Regt. The regiment was activated in March 1943 with the four battalions concentrated on Espíritu Santo. Its authorized strength was 3,782 marines and 148 Navy medics. Owing to limited opportunities for employment as raiders, they increasingly fought as light infantry. In December 1943 it was directed that the Raiders be reorganized as infantry, as the reactivated 4th Marines to take the lineage of the regiment lost on Corregidor in 1942; this new 4th Marines (Separate) did not perpetuate the Raider lineage. The regiment concentrated at Tassafarougu, Guadalcanal in December 1943; the understrength 2d Bn was deactivated January 31, 1944, and the rest of the regiment the following day. The 4th Marines (see above) would soon be assigned to the Prov 1st MarBde. In total 7,710 marines and 368 Navy medical personnel served in the Raiders.

H RAIDER & PARACHUTE REGIMENTS; SOLOMON ISLANDS, 1943



The four existing Raider battalions were organized into a regiment in March 1943, as were the four parachute battalions the following month. The Raider regiment would be absorbed into the re-formed 4th Marines with the 6th MarDiv, and the Parachute regiment into the 5th MarDiv. Both units used specialized camouflage uniforms to some degree, and made limited use of unusual weapons: the .30cal Johnson M1941 rifle and light machine gun, .45cal Reising M55 submachine gun, and in the case of the Raiders, the Canadian-built British .55cal Boys Mk I AT rifle. The Marines acquired 600 M1941 rifles and 625 LMGs (of which 125 also went to the Army's First Special Service Force – see Elite 145, *First Special Service Force 1942–44*). Few of either were used in the Solomons, and they were replaced with M1s and BARs by late 1943.
(1) Light machine-gunner, 1st Raider Regiment, Bougainville This Raider wears the so-called "third pattern" or sniper's non-reversible helmet cover, with its thin camouflage head-and-shoulders veil either cut off or tucked up inside the shell; it had an integral looped band for inserting foliage, and he has added slits for the same purpose. His uniform is the Army "M1942" one-piece camouflage suit (which, although printed with the "brown" pattern inside, was not truly reversible, due to the design of the pockets and the integral suspenders.)

This garment was hot, uncomfortable, and inconvenient, since it had to be almost removed for a man to carry out his natural functions. The large chest pockets had two-snap flaps, and sometimes a single pleat; they and the leg cargo pockets were designed for expansion at the outer and bottom edges. His LMG is the Johnson M1941; a good weapon and lighter than the BAR, this proved too fragile under combat conditions. He has the heavy slung carrier for 12x 20-round Johnson magazines; in fact these were rare, as were the magazines themselves. The "Johnny gun's" magazine could be reloaded while still in the gun with .30cal cartridges fed from stripper clips through the ejection port, so he wears the M1923 cartridge belt with 20x 5-round Springfield clips.

(2) Rifleman, 1st Marine Parachute Regiment, New Caledonia This Marine paratrooper seen during frontline training wears the special parachutist's reversible two-piece camouflage utilities, "green side out." The large chest pockets with slanted flaps gave easier access when wearing parachute harness. The leg cargo pockets had expanding outside and bottom edges; the trousers also had a full-width seat pocket with slanted flaps at either end. The original Marine jump boots lacked the separate toecap of the Army's "Corcorans," which were issued later. He is fixing the small all-steel "tent stake" bayonet to his Johnson rifle.

(3) The .45cal Reising M55 SMG had a folding skeleton butt, and in training jumps parachutists carried it behind the reserve chute pack; later some camouflage-cloth leg bags for it were produced. A 12-round magazine was limited to training use; this is the general issue 20-round type.

(4) M1941 (modified) haversack in field marching pack configuration. The blanket roll is wrapped in the reversible camouflage poncho, and a camouflage shelter half ("pup tent") and its accessories might be included. While camouflage uniforms were withdrawn from general issue, the poncho – like the helmet cover – was retained, and gradually replaced the OD equivalent. Note the difference between its "green side" and that of the reversible uniforms; the pattern is printed on a green base, instead of the straw-colored base of the uniforms.

(5) The Johnson M1941 rifle's bayonet and scabbard.

(6) The Marine Corps utility pocket knife varied slightly depending upon the manufacturer. It had a 3-inch spearpoint knife blade, a

screwdriver/bottle-cap lifter, a can opener, and an awl (punch).
(7) The Army/Navy belt-type life preserver (dual type) was worn in all theaters by troops aboard landing craft and amtracs, to be discarded when debarking or on the beach. It had two CO^2 inflation cartridges and two oral tubes as back-up.
(8 & 9) Marine Raiders and paratroopers, of both separate battalions and the later regiments, wore "battle blazes" based on the common IMAC "Southern Cross" design, itself approved in July 1943. This Raider patch is the original Australian-made pattern.

1st Marine Raider Regt
1st Raider Bn activated Quantico, February 16, 1942; 2d Raider Bn activated San Diego, February 19, 1942; 3d Raider Bn activated Tutuila, Samoa, September 20, 1942; 4th Raider Bn activated Camp Linda Vista, CA, October 23, 1942. 1st Marine Raider Regt activated Espíritu Santo, March 15, 1943; 1st Marine Raider Regt deactivated Guadalcanal, February 1, 1944 and assets absorbed into 4th Marines: 1st Rdr Bn to 1/ 4th, 2d Rdr Bn to Wpns Co, 3d Rdr Bn to 3/ 4th; 4th Rdr Bn to 2/ 4th.
Awards:
Medals of Honor: Maj Kenneth D. Bailey; LtCol Merritt A. Edson; Sgt Clyde A. Thomason (recipients received their awards while members of separate Raider battalions, before the regiment was raised).

2d Marine Raider Regiment (Provisional) – IMAC

The combat-exhausted 1st Marine Raider Regt formed the 2d Marine Raider Regt (Prov) in September 1943 on New Caledonia, to control the 2d and 3d Raider Bns for the November 1–December 15, 1943 Bougainville campaign. Assigned strength was 914 marines and 34 Navy medics. The regiment shipped to New Caledonia in January 1944 and was disbanded, with the 2d and 3d Raider Bns returning to 1st Marine Raider Regt control.

2d Raider Bn troops crossing a river on Guadalcanal fill their canteens while on the move. This photo was taken during the famous "Long Patrol," which saw the battalion landed on November 4, 1942 about 31 miles east of Henderson Field, and moving through the jungle attacking Japanese forces until they closed on the airfield perimeter on December 4. (HD/MCU)

2d Marine Raider Regt (Prov)
Formed as 2d Marine Raider Regt (Prov), New Caledonia, September 12, 1943; disbanded Tassafaronga, Guadalcanal, January 26, 1944.
Awards:
Medal of Honor: Pfc Henry Gurke.

OTHER MARINE REGIMENTS

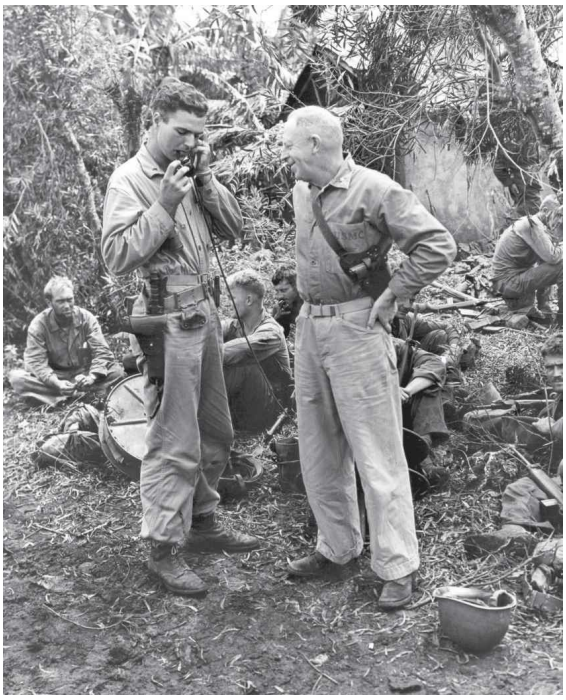
During World War II there were basically five categories of Marine regiments: traditional infantry regiments, either separate or assigned to divisions or brigades; artillery regiments assigned to divisions; the short-lived divisional engineer regiments; a few essentially provisional special-purpose regiments; and temporary training regiments in the States.

The 10th and 11th Marines had served on and off as **artillery** units since World War I and were assigned to the 2d and 1st MarDivs, respectively, from February 1941. As each subsequent division was activated so was an artillery regiment: 12th Marines (3d MarDiv), 13th Marines (5th MarDiv), 14th Marines (4th MarDiv), and 15th Marines (6th MarDiv). Regiments possessed four or five artillery battalions of different calibers dependent on timeframe (see above, table page 9, and under "Weapons"). Most regiments were deactivated with their divisions, with only the 10th and 11th Marines serving uninterrupted ever since.

Raiders of Co M, 3d Bn/ 1st Raider Regt accompanied 1st Bn/ 1st Marine Parachute Regt conducting a raid on Koirai Beach, Bougainville on November 29, 1943. Here Raiders or paratroopers fire on snipers; the cylindrical packing canister in the foreground held six 60mm mortar rounds. (HD/MCU)

Five **engineer** regiments were raised between September 1942 and December 1943, as a command echelon for the divisions' engineer, pioneer, and Naval Construction ("Seabee") battalions: 16th Marines (5th MarDiv), 17th Marines (1st MarDiv), 18th Marines (2d MarDiv), 19th Marines (3d MarDiv), and 20th Marines (4MarDiv); the 6th MarDiv never possessed an engineer regiment. The Navy withdrew the NC battalions in early 1944, although they remained attached to the divisions to perform rear-area construction. The engineer battalion's companies were habitually attached to the infantry regiments in combat, and the pioneer battalion provided the core of the shore party. They were deactivated between May and September 1944, and none of the regiments has since been reactivated.

Special-purpose regiments included unique units formed on a temporary basis. The 5th Shore Party Regiment (Provisional) existed from December 1944 to March 1945. It was formed by the 5th MarDiv from deactivated 16th Marines engineer assets for duty on Iwo Jima. The 7th and 8th Service Regiments were raised from the 7th and 8th Field Depots in June 1945 in an effort to improve the morale of the disparaged service troops; they supported IIIAC and VAC until deactivated after the war. (The parachute and raider regiments also fall under this category, but are discussed above with the infantry regiments.)



BrigGen Merritt A. Edson, assistant commander of 2d MarDiv, seen surrounded by communication personnel on Tinian, July 1944. “Red Mike” led the 1st Raider Bn from its creation until September 1942; he then took command of the 5th Marines, before joining the divisional staff in August 1943. By now senior officers generally wore olive drab utilities rather than khakis, but the general seems to be wearing a faded OD jacket tucked into khaki trousers – note the printed “USMC” on his left breast pocket. He carries an M1911A1 pistol in an M3 “tanker” shoulder holster. The aide at left displays, unusually, lieutenant’s collar bars, and has a K-Bar knife behind his M1916 holster, a common practice. (HD/MCU)

Stateside **training** units were temporary and did not possess lineages, being formed and disbanded as training requirements evolved. Most training units were battalion-sized and not affiliated with regiments. The few training regiments were assigned to training commands. Marine Training Command, Camp Lejeune, NC possessed the Infantry Training, Specialist Training, and Schools regiments. Marine Training Command, San Diego, CA formed the 2d and 4th Infantry Training, Specialty Training, and Schools regiments. There was also a Staging Regiment to oversee the deployment of replacement drafts. The Redistribution Regiment (Provisional) was formed at the war’s end by Replacement and Training Command, Camp Pendleton, CA to discharge returning marines.

CONCLUSION

The Marine infantry regiment of 1944–45 proved to be an effective and flexible structure, with a practical allocation and distribution of individual and crew-served weapons. It was also well designed to accept the integration of supporting subunits from division assets. (One major complaint was the elimination of the battalion weapons company, with the MG platoon replacing the rifle company weapons platoon, and the mortar section assigned to the rifle company HQ.) This basic regimental structure was continued with the 1946 Series H.

Owing to the perceived need for smaller, more compact units to survive on the nuclear battlefield, and also to manning constraints, from October 1947 Series J Marine regiments were reduced to battalions, although still called "regiments" and commanded by colonels – 1st–9th, and 21st Marines. These battalion-sized "regiments," six to a division, still lacked a weapons company. The Corps returned to traditional three-battalion regiments in the October 1949 Series K (there was no Series I); the regimental weapons company was replaced by mortar and antitank companies.

A column of 1st MarDiv troops march northward up West Road on Peleliu, following the northwest coast. At right, note the old Navy and Marine oval "dog tag" still in use; this was replaced with Army-style tags during the course of the war. (HD/MCU)

Weapons and job titles have changed, but the basic 1944–45 organization has remained. Depending on the era and manpower allocations the number of rifle companies per battalion has varied from three to four. Rifle companies still have three platoons each, with three squads of three fire teams led by sergeants and corporals. Company weapons platoons possess MG, mortar, and assault or anti-armor sections, this last section's weaponry changing drastically over the years. After Vietnam the battalion weapons company was reintroduced and regimental weapons companies eliminated. The Marine "triangular reinforcement" concept, with three maneuver subunits and a fire support element at each echelon, has proved successful.

The structure has been proved easily adaptable to the old RLT and BLT concept, with even more ability to integrate supporting units of all types to create self-contained Marine Expeditionary Brigades (MEB) with an RLT, and Marine Expeditionary Units (MEU) with a BLT, as elements of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF).

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Gordon L. Rottman entered the US Army in 1967, volunteered for Special Forces and completed training as a weapons specialist. He served in the 5th Special Forces Group in Vietnam in 1969–70 and subsequently in airborne infantry, long-range patrol and intelligence assignments until retiring after 26 years. He was a Special Operations Forces scenario writer at the Joint Readiness Training Center for 12 years and is now a freelance writer, living in Texas.

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Peter Dennis was inspired by contemporary magazines such as *Look and Learn*, leading him to study Illustration at Liverpool Art College. Peter has since contributed to hundreds of books, predominantly on historical subjects, including many Osprey titles. A keen wargamer and modelmaker, he is based in Nottinghamshire, UK.

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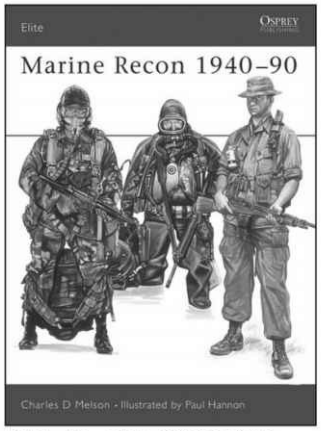

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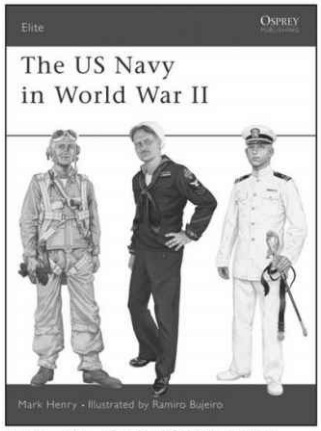

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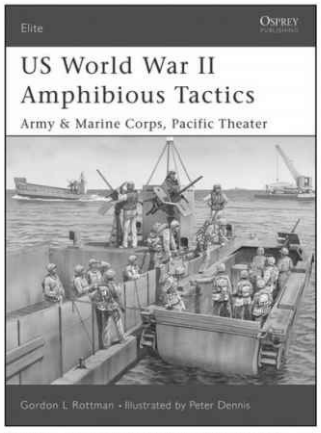

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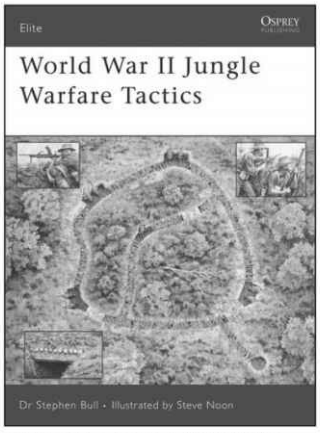

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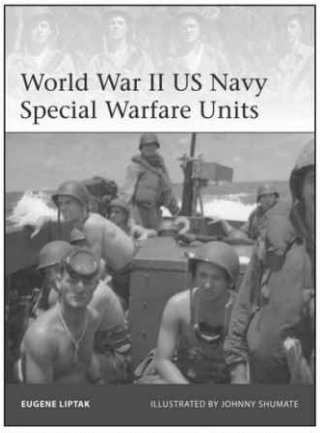

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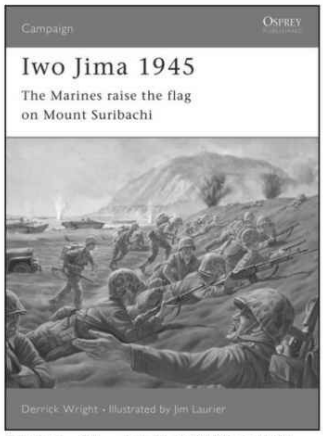

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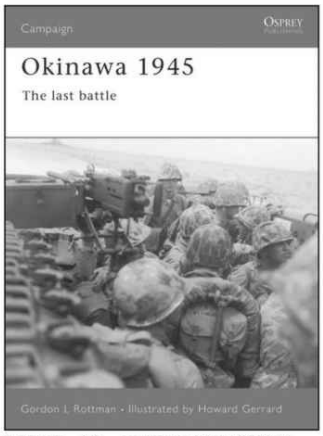

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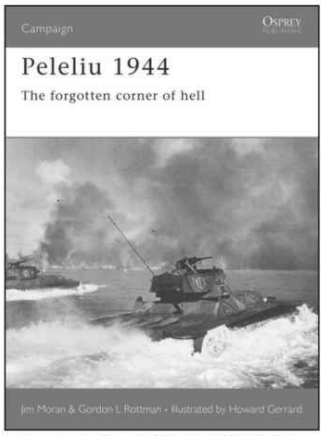

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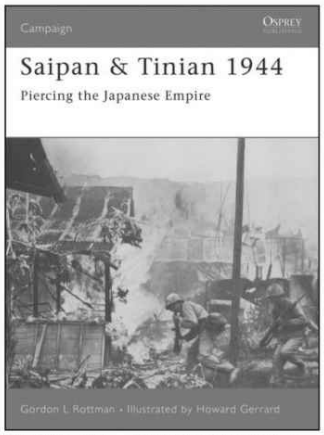

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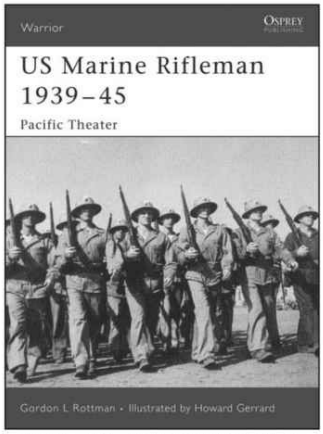

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Abbreviations and acronyms used in this text

amtrac	amphibian tractor (LVT)
AT	antitank
BAR	Browning Automatic Rifle
BLT	Battalion Landing Team
Bn	Battalion
CO	commanding officer
Co	Company
CT	Combat Team
Div	Division
FMF	Fleet Marine Force
FMFPac	Fleet Marine Force, Pacific
G	(rifle) grenade launcher
HMG	heavy machine gun
HQ	headquarters
HQ&S	headquarters and service
IMAC	I Marine Amphibious Corps

IIIAC	III Amphibious Corps
Inf	Infantry
LCVP	landing craft, vehicle/personnel
LMG	light machine gun
LVT	landing vehicle, tracked (“amtrac”)
MarBde	Marine Brigade
MarDiv	Marine Division
MG	machine gun
NUC	Navy Unit Commendation
NZ	New Zealand
Prcht	Parachute
Prov	Provisional
PUC	Presidential Unit Citation
Regt	Regiment
RLT	Regimental Landing Team
SMG	submachine gun
SPM	self-propelled mount (M3 halftrack)
T/O	Tables of Organization
USMC	United States Marine Corps
VAC	V Amphibious Corps
XO	executive officer (second-in-command)